

2012 KENTUCKY SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

DAVID AKERS, football — 49ers place-kicker, a U of L and Bates Creek product, tied NFL record with 63-yard field goal against Green Bay.

CARLOS ALMEIDA, swimming — Claimed first-ever NCAA swimming championship for U of L, winning 200 breaststroke in 1:51.88

JUSTIN AMLUNG, baseball — U of L pitcher (9-4, 2.31 ERA, 105 K's, 26 BB) was named Big East Pitcher of Year and third-team All-American by Louisville Slugger.

ANTONIO ANDREWS, football — WKU running back, a Fort Campbell product, led nation in all-purpose yards (3,161, the second most all-time). Was named All-Sun Belt first team as both running back (1,728 yards) and All-Purpose Runner. A finalist for Paul Hornung Award.

RON ARNETT, basketball — Coached Kentucky Christian University women's hoops team (29-6) to sixth straight National Christian College Athletic Association national title.

LOLA ARSLANBEKOVA, volleyball — Louisville star was named Big East Player of Year for second straight season. Finished career with more than 2,000 kills and 1,000 digs.

MITCH BARNHART, administration — In 2011-12, UK Athletics Director saw school claim four conference championships, four SEC Coaches of Year, four SEC Players of Year and men's NCAA basketball title.

DOTSIE BAUSCH, cycling — Ballard graduate rode on Team USA's silver-medal-winning team pursuit squad at London Olympics.

BOB BEATTY, football — Coached Trinity (14-1) to its third straight 6A state title and the 10th state championship in coach's 12 years.

AUSTIN BERRY, soccer — Former U of L defender was named Major League Soccer Rookie of Year for Chicago Fire.

SOUFIANE BOUCHIKHI, cross country, track and field — EKU junior won OVC and NCAA Southeast Regional cross country championships and finished 40th in NCAA championship. In track, finished 8th in 10,000 meters and 16th in 5,000 meters at NCAA outdoor championships.

BUFF BRADLEY, horse racing — Kentucky-based trainer saddled Groupie Doll, a horse he co-owns with his father, Fred, to victory in Breeders' Cup Filly and Mare Sprint.

TEDDY BRIDGEWATER, football — U of L QB (287-419-8 for 3,718 yards passing with 27 TDs) was named Big East Offensive Player of Year after leading Cardinals (11-2) to conference co-championship. Led U of L to Sugar Bowl upset of Florida.

CASEY BROCKMAN, football — Murray State QB (359-517 passing, 3,729 yards, 28 TDs; 7 rushing TDs) was named first-team All-OVC and finished sixth in Walter Payton Award voting.

CLARK BURKLE, swimming — St. Xavier graduate placed second (2:09.97) in 200 breaststroke in U.S. Olympic trials. Was sixth (2:09.25) in London Olympics.

DREW BURWASH, soccer — Coached Lindsey Wilson College (20-4-1) to NAIA women's national championship, the coach's third at LWC.

ADRIAN BUSHELL, football — U of L cornerback (62 tackles, 13 pass breakups, 3 fumble recoveries, one interception) was named first-team All-Big East for second straight year.

JOHN CALIPARI, basketball — Coached UK (38-2) to undefeated SEC regular season (16-0) and the school's eighth NCAA title.

ISIAH CANAAN, basketball — As junior, Murray State guard (19.4 ppg, 3.8 assists, OVC

leader in three-point percentage) was named OVC Player of Year. Led Racers (31-2) to NCAA tourney round of 32.

BRITTANY CERVANTES, softball — UK senior third baseman (.310, 13 HRs, 35 RBI) was named first-team All-SEC and All-SEC Defensive Team.

JOSEPH CHEBET, cross country — WKU senior won Sun Belt championship and was first WKU cross-country runner to win more than one race (three) in a season since 1998. Was 35th in NCAA championship, becoming second WKU runner to make All-American since 1992.

RANDALL COBB, football — In second year, ex-UK standout set Green Bay franchise record for combined net yardage (2,342) and led team in receptions (80) and receiving yards (954).

TORI COLLINS, softball — U of L senior pitcher (25-2) was named third-team All-American and first-team All-Big East as Cardinals (55-5) won league regular-season and tournament titles.

RYNE COMBS, baseball — Bryan Station standout won Mr. Baseball and Gatorade Player of Year after starring as pitcher (10-1, 0.59 ERA) and center fielder/leadoff hitter (.363, 5 triples, 24 steals).

AUSTIN COUSINO, baseball — UK outfielder (.316, 9 HRs, 38 RBI) was named SEC Freshman of Year and Baseball America First-Team Freshman All-American.

BILL CRONIN, football — Georgetown College coach won his 150th career game during 10-0 regular season that saw Tigers ranked No. 1 in NAIA (lost 45-44 to Bethel in first round of playoffs).

SCOTT DAVENPORT, basketball — Coached Bellarmine (29-4) to 24-game winning streak, GLVC regular season crown and berth in NCAA Division II national semifinals.

ANTHONY DAVIS, basketball — UK freshman (14.2 ppg, 10.4 rpg, 4.7 blocks) led Cats to national title. Was consensus national player of year (including Wooden Award), Final Four MOP, SEC Male Athlete of Year, No. 1 overall pick in NBA Draft and member of Olympics gold-medal-winning USA men's hoops team.

DERMONTTI DAWSON, football — Ex-Pittsburgh Steelers center, a Bryan Station and UK product, was inducted into Pro Football Hall of Fame.

MATT DENHAM, football — EKU running back (1,386 yards rushing, 14 TDs; 3 receiving TDs) was named first-team All-OVC for second straight year.

NATHAN DIEUDONNE, basketball — Trinity star (13.9 ppg, 6.8 rpg) led Shamrocks (35-3) to state title. Earned State Tournament MVP and Mr. Basketball honors.

CLAIRE DONAHUE, swimming — Became first swimmer from WKU to make U.S. Olympic team when she finished second in 100-meter butterfly at U.S. trials. In London, placed seventh in 100 butterfly. Earned a gold medal for swimming preliminary heat for USA 4-by-100 medley relay.

DENNIS EMERY, tennis — Led UK men (28-6) to undefeated SEC regular-season title and NCAA tourney round of 16. Announced retirement after 30 years as Kentucky head coach.

RICK ERDMANN, cross country — Coached EKU men's and women's cross country teams to OVC championships, their sixth such sweep in past seven years.

JEREMY EVANS, basketball — Ex-WKU and current Utah Jazz forward won 2012 NBA Slam Dunk Contest.

EDDIE EVISTON, football — Coached Newport Catholic (11-4) to second 2A state title in his three

seasons as head man.

KENNETH FARIED, basketball — Ex-Morehead State star made NBA first-team All-Rookie for Denver Nuggets (10.2 ppg, 7.7 rpg, 1.0 blocks).

KAELOX FOX, soccer — St. Xavier defender (12 goals, 6 assists) was named Mr. Soccer after helping Tigers (26-0-2) to undefeated state championship.

TYSON GAY, track — In London Olympics, Lafayette graduate placed fourth in 100 meters (9.8 seconds) and earned silver medal with USA 4-by-100 relay team.

DESTINIE GRAVES, soccer — Bates Creek star won Miss Soccer after helping Creekers (23-1-4) to state title.

LYDIA GUMM, golf — North Hardin senior was named Miss Golf after winning six tournaments and being runner-up three times.

ANNA HACK, golf — Calloway Co. sophomore won Kentucky high school state golf championship, her first.

RAY HARPER, basketball — After Ken McDonald was fired, coach took over 5-11 WKU men's team and led it to NCAA Tournament with 7-1 finish that included winning Sun Belt tourney.

COREY HART, baseball — Greenwood (Bowling Green) product hit 30 HRs with 83 RBI for Brewers.

GARY HENDERSON, baseball — UK head man named SEC Coach of Year. Led Cats (45-18) to school-record victory total and NCAA Tournament regional finals.

BRAYDON HOBBS, basketball — Bellarmine men's hoops (29-4) point guard (12.2 ppg, 3.7 rpg, 5.7 apg, 1.9 steals) was named NCAA Division II National Player of Year by the NABC and Basketball Times.

REESE HOFFA, track and field — Louisville native won U.S. Olympic Trials in shot put, then took bronze medal at London Olympics.

TRAVIS HUDSON, volleyball — Was named Sun Belt Coach of Year after leading WKU (33-4) to undefeated league (15-0) championship, Sun Belt tourney title, NCAA tourney round of 32 and highest national ranking (No. 17) in school history.

MARISA KAMELGARN, golf — Morehead State junior was OVC Women's Golfer of Year after tying for first in OVC Championships. Led OVC with 74.5 stroke average and won three tournaments.

LYDIA KOSGEI, cross country, track — EKU distance runner was named OVC Women's Athlete of Year for 2011-12. In OVC indoor track, senior won 800 meters, mile and 3,000 meters.

JONATHAN JACKSON, football — Two-way star led Mayfield to Class A state title, ran for 2,229 yards, 36 TDs; caught 15 passes, 354 yards, 4 TDs; at linebacker, made 601 career tackles.

NATE JONES, baseball — Ex-Pendleton County and NKU pitcher went 8-0 with 2.39 ERA working out of White Sox bullpen.

TOM JURICH, administration — In 2011-12, U of L Athletics Director saw men's basketball team reach Final Four, football team win Sugar Bowl and school invited to join ACC.

MICHAEL KIDD-GILCHRIST, basketball — For NCAA champion UK, freshman (11.9 ppg, 7.4 rpg) was AP third-team All-American, MVP of NCAA tourney South Region and made Final Four All-Tournament team. Was No. 2 overall pick in NBA Draft.

LEE KIEFER, fencing — Lexington resident was top U.S. qualifier for Olympics and reached quarterfinals in London.

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STEPHANIE KLEFOT, volleyball — UK senior won unprecedented third straight SEC Libero of Year award and helped Cats reach NCAA tourney round of 16.

BRANDON, KNIGHT, basketball — Ex-UK guard (12.8 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 3.8 assists, 38% 3-pt shooting) was named first-team NBA All-Rookie for Pistons.

ANN KORDES, volleyball — Named Big East co-Coach of Year after leading U of L (30-4) to Big East regular-season and tournament championships and NCAA tourney round of 32.

WESLEY KORIR, track — Ex-Murray State and U of L runner won the 116th Boston Marathon.

KELLY KULICK, bowling — Ex-Morehead State star won 2012 U.S. Women's Open, becoming second woman to win event at least three times. Won the WTBA Women's World Singles Championship in Cyprus.

COREY LANERIE, horse racing — Jockey swept riding titles at Churchill Downs (71 wins in spring meet, 29 in fall).

JULIEN LEPAROUX, horse racing — Jockey won both spring (23 wins) and fall (26) meet riding titles at Keeneland.

JON LIPSITZ, soccer — Coached UK women (14-7-1) to school's first-ever NCAA tourney win before falling in second round.

KEN LOLLA, soccer — Louisville men's coach led team (14-6-1) to NCAA Tournament quarterfinals.

CHARLIE LOPRESTI, horse racing — Kentucky-based trainer guided Wise Dan to victory in 5 of 6 races, including Breeders' Cup Mile.

RON MANN, track and field — Coached Louisville women to unprecedented fifth consecutive Big East Outdoor Championship.

A'DIA MATHIES, basketball — UK star (15 ppg, 5.1 rpg, 2.7 assists, 2.6 steals) was SEC women's Player of Year. Led Cats (28-7) to SEC regular-season crown and berth in NCAA tourney round of eight.

CALLY MACUMBER, cross country — UK junior earned All-America honors after winning SEC and NCAA SE Region championships and placing sixth in NCAA championships.

ANGEL MCCOUGHTRY, basketball — Ex-U of L star was second-leading scorer (10.9 ppg) for Team USA as Americans won Olympic women's hoops gold medal. With Atlanta Dream, led WNBA in scoring (21.4 ppg).

DAN MCDONNELL, baseball — Coached Louisville (41-22) to Big East regular-season co-championship and finals of NCAA Tournament Tucson Regional.

DARIUS MILLER, basketball — UK senior (9.9 ppg, 2.8 rpg, 2.1 apg) was SEC Sixth Man of Year (coaches) and Academic All-SEC. Became first player in state history who had won a Kentucky high school state title and Mr. Basketball honors to play on NCAA championship team for UK.

MATTHEW MITCHELL, basketball — Coached Kentucky women (28-7) to regular-season SEC title and to second NCAA Tournament Elite Eight in past three seasons.

JOE MORRIS, football — Coached Mayfield (14-1) to its second Class A state crown in past three years.

SYDNEY MOSS, basketball — Boone Co. senior (23.3 ppg, 10.2 rpg, 4.2 assists, 4.1 steals) won Miss Basketball after leading team to 30-4 record. Signed with Florida.

DALE MUELLER, football — Coached Highlands (14-1) to Class 4A state title, the school's state-record sixth straight and the coach's state-

record 11th state championship.

NICK NICHOLSON, horse racing — Retired as President and CEO of Keeneland after 12 years, having led track through two global recessions and the mare-reproductive-loss syndrome crisis.

NATALIE NOVOSEL, basketball — Ex-Lexington Catholic star helped Notre Dame (35-4) reach NCAA Tournament finals for second year in a row. Guard (15.2 ppg, 4.1 rpg, 41.1% 3-pt shooting) was All-Big East first team.

KELSI PARDUE, softball — Allen County star, a WKU signee, was named Miss Softball after going 30-5 with an 0.67 ERA as pitcher, hitting .412 as leadoff batter.

JEFF PARRETT, baseball — Ex-Lafayette, UK and major-league pitcher coached Woodford County (34-6) to school's first Kentucky high school state title.

SANDY PEARSALL, softball — Coached Louisville (55-5) to school record for wins, Big East regular-season and tournament titles and to finals of NCAA Tournament Louisville Regional.

STACY PENDELETON, basketball — Coached Manual (37-2) to girls' state championship.

MIA PERSSON, soccer — After leading Lindsey Wilson to women's NAIA national title, senior midfielder was named NAIA National Player of Year. Finished career as LWC's all-time leading goal scorer (72) and first four-time All-American.

RICK PITINO, basketball — Coached Louisville men (30-10) to Big East Tournament championship and NCAA tourney Final Four.

STEVE PROHM, basketball — In first season, coached Murray State (31-2) to OVC regular season and tournament titles and NCAA Tournament round of 32.

ERIC QUIGLEY, tennis — UK senior was named SEC Player of Year. Finished second in NCAA Tournament after beating five ranked players to reach finals; set school record for wins in a season (54-8) and career (172-47).

JAMES QUICK, football — Trinity wide receiver (85 catches, 1,413 yards, 16 TDs; 1,652 all-purpose yards) was named Mr. Football after helping Shamrocks to third straight 6A state title. Also won Paul Hornung Award and Gatorade Player of Year. Set state career record with 280 receptions.

BEN REVERE, baseball — Ex-Lexington Catholic star hit .294, scored 70 runs and stole 40 bases for Minnesota Twins.

DALE ROMANS, horse racing — Louisville-based trainer won whopping nine Grade I stakes. Won Breeders' Cup Turf and Arlington Million with Little Mike; the Blue Grass Stakes and Pacific Classic with Dullahan; the Metropolitan Mile and Clark Handicap with Shackelford. Also swept Churchill Downs training titles (23 wins in spring meet, 14 in fall to tie Ken McPeck).

RAJON RONDO, basketball — Louisville product and ex-UK guard starred for Celtics in NBA playoffs (17.3 ppg, 11.9 assists, 6.7 rpg, 2.4 steals), including 44-point game vs. Heat. Ended regular season with 24 straight games of 10 assists or more. Was named to NBA All-Star Game for third straight year and was third-team All-NBA.

ROBBIE ROSS, baseball — In rookie season with Rangers, ex-Lexington Christian standout went 6-0 with 2.22 ERA working out of bullpen.

EBONY ROWE, basketball — Ex-Paul Laurence Dunbar star was named first-team All-Sun Belt for Middle Tennessee (26-7) after averaging double-double (16.3 ppg, 10.1 rpg) as sophomore.

BILL TOM SARGENT, golf — Scott County

junior was named Mr. Golf after winning three invitational, finishing as runner-up in two and coming in fourth in state championship.

SHONI SCHIMMEL, basketball — Louisville women's sophomore guard (14.3 ppg, 4.5 rpg, 4.7 assists, 2.2 steals) was named first-team All-Big East for Cardinals (23-10, NCAA round of 32).

TY SCROGGINS, football — Coached Central (13-2) to its fifth Class 3A state title in six years.

PEYTON SIVA, basketball — Louisville men's point guard (9.1 ppg, 3.2 rpg, 5.6 assists) earned Big East Tournament MOP and NCAA Tournament All-West Region honors.

CRAIG SKINNER, volleyball — Coached UK (22-11) to NCAA tourney round of 16 for third time in four years.

QUANTERUS SMITH, football — WKU stand-out was Sun Belt Conference Defensive Player of Year. Was leading nation in sacks (12.5) when he suffered season-ending knee injury Nov. 17.

TRENT STEELMAN, football — Army quarterback, a Bowling Green product, ran for 1,248 yards and 17 TDs. Finished four-year career as starting QB at West Point as school's all-time leader in rushing TDs (45) and rushing yards by a QB (3,320 yards).

CHARLIE STRONG, football — Coached Louisville (11-2) to share of Big East Championship and Sugar Bowl upset of Florida.

MIKE SZABO, basketball — Coached Trinity (35-3) to boys' state championship.

WILLIE TAGGART, football — Coached WKU (7-5) to its first football victory over UK and to its first bowl (Little Caesars) as an FBS school.

JUSTIN THOMAS, golf — In freshman year at Alabama, St. Xavier grad won SEC championship, NCAA Tournament Athens Regional, was SEC Player of Year, SEC Freshman of Year and won Nicklaus Award, as nation's top college player. As amateur, made cut in PGA Tour Greenbrier Classic.

RYAN TIMMONS, football — Franklin County (12-1) star accounted for 2,651 all-purpose yards and 45 TDs in 2012. He ran for 1,306 yards and 26 TDs; caught 33 passes for 1,004 yards and 16 TDs.

DARRELL WALTRIP, auto racing — Owensboro native was inducted into NASCAR Hall of Fame.

MICHAEL WALTRIP, auto racing — Michael Waltrip Racing, the Sprint Cup team partly owned by Owensboro native, won three Cup races, put two drivers (Clint Bowyer, Martin Truex Jr.) into Chase, and owned cars that finished second (Bowyer) and 11th (Truex Jr.) in points.

KEVIN WALLACE, football — Coached Bowling Green (15-0) to its second straight undefeated Class 5A state title.

WESLEY WARD, horse racing — Trainer swept Keeneland training titles with 12 wins in fall meet, nine in spring.

LARRY WARFORD, football — Kentucky senior right guard was named third-team All-American by AP, first-team All-SEC by ESPN.com and second-team All-SEC by both AP and SEC coaches.

IAN WILKES, horse racing — Kentucky-based trainer won Breeders' Cup Classic with 9-1 shot Fort Larned.

APRIL WILSON, basketball — For state champ Manual, senior (12.6 ppg, 4.9 steals, 3.2 assists), a Purdue signee, was state tournament MVP.

WISE DAN, horse racing — Kentucky-based gelding won 5 of 6 races, including Breeders' Cup Mile.

WESLEY WOODYARD, football — Ex-UK line-backer led Denver Broncos in tackles (117).