



Coach Joy Coffey talked with her team during a time out early in the 8th grade game against Campbellsville last week.

GCMS Volleyball



Molly Blaydes put the ball into play with first serve of the night during last Thursday's GCMS Volleyball Pink Out game against Campbellsville.

Photos by Shelley Bishop



Seventh grader Kylee Hargan went for the kill against the Lady Eagles last Thursday night. The Lady Dragon 8th grade team is 1-3 on the season.



Libero Dayni Coffey pushed the ball over the net in last week's Pink Out game against Campbellsville. The Lady Eagles beat the Lady Dragons 2-0.



Jaidyn Darnell went low to make the initial pass and set up the Lady Dragon offense against Campbellsville in last Thursday night's Pink Out game.

Reed Sheppard's parents are having as much fun as he is



Vaught's Views
Larry Vaught

Stacey and Jeff Sheppard knew watching their son, Reed, play at Kentucky this season would be a surreal experience at times for the two former UK stars. They have had as much fun as UK fans watching this season. The Sheppards were confident Reed could play at Kentucky. He finished his high school career at North Laurel with 3,727 points (third best in state history) along with 1,214 assists (second best in state history). He also 1,050 rebounds and a state-record 653 steals. He was Kentucky's Mr. Basketball and Gatorade Player of the Year in 2023 as well as a McDonald's All-American. However, even the two former UK stars never expected to have their son's name showing up on NBA mock draft projections so early in his career like what has happened. He has even been projected as a lottery pick by several NBA draft analysts. "It is crazy. A lot of things are happening very fast," Stacey said. "We are not having any conversations with Reed. We want him to focus on this year and his team and what to do to prepare for every game. There is lots of stuff to deal with when the time comes. If that happens, Jeff and I will try to vet everything and let



Stacey Sheppard just wants to enjoy her son's freshman season and not worry about what the future might hold. (Vicky Graff Photo)

Reed make his own decisions. But that really is not something we are even thinking about." Yahoo Sports draft analyst Krysten Peek says NBA personnel continue to speak highly about Sheppard and his draft value. "They know Reed not only is a high level shooter but has a great basketball IQ, is a great shooter and is not afraid to take big shots," Peek said. "I wasn't sure Reed's game would transition to college so well this quickly but I always knew he would buy into what the coaches wanted and would be a really good player." Stacey Sheppard still remembers dropping Reed off at UK in May to start college and just wanting him to come home to see her. "Whatever happens will happen and we

definitely don't know what that could be," Stacey said. "I am sure after the season is over we will have some conversations with Reed and his coaches. But we just want to enjoy these moments with Reed and allow him to be a freshman. "This team is great and they have fun playing together. We know Kentucky fans are going to cheer for their own because they are very loyal. But when you put guys around him who play the right way, what is not to love about this team and Reed being part of it is just very special to us." * * * Former LSU coach Dale Brown first met John Calipari when he was coaching at Mass and asked if he could come watch

LSU practice when he brought his team to Louisiana to play. "I was friends with him before he got to Kentucky. I hit it off immediately with him the

first time I met him," said Brown. "I also really think he's in the game because he loves the game and wants to help young people." Brown, 88, took LSU to the Final Four in

1981 and 1986 and had a 448-301 record, including 18-13 in NCAA Tournament play, during his 25 years at LSU from 1972-1997.

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