

2000 in Review



Entering the 2000 season, third-year coach Jona Braden knew that her squad had the talent to compete with the teams in the upper echelon of the SEC but realized that it would take some time for the Wildcats to jell as a group.

The Wildcats opened the season at the Jefferson Cup University of Virginia Invitational. Competing against some of the nation's elite programs, UK managed a 1-2 record and showed signs of coming together with an inspired come-from-behind victory over William & Mary. Impressive performances from senior outside hitter Megan Weiskircher and junior middle blocker April Barnhorst earned them all-tournament team honors. Weiskircher posted double-doubles in two of the three contests and established herself as the team's go-to player. Barnhorst dominated net play, tallying 34 kills and 15 total blocks, nine of which came in one match.

After dropping the home opener to Louisville, the Cats traveled north to Columbus, Ohio, to participate in the Ohio State Invitational. UK earned a split in the tournament, falling to Illinois State before rebounding to capture a thrilling 3-2 win over Toledo. Weiskircher continued her stellar play, recording her first career triple-double en route to her second consecutive all-tournament selection.

Looking to gain confidence prior to SEC

play, the Wildcats played host to the Kentucky Conference Challenge. However, the squad came out flat and never gained form, finishing with a disappointing 0-4 record on its home court. Though the team struggled to find cohesiveness, sophomore Liz McCaslin had her breakout match in the tournament finale, notching 15 kills and 23 digs against James Madison. Weiskircher emerged as a force to be reckoned with during the upcoming conference season, being named tournament MVP.

UK opened up conference play in fine fashion, collecting a 3-1 win over undefeated Mississippi State. However, the victory was soured when the team lost seniors Stephenie Taylor and Stacey Wallace for the season with knee injuries.

The resilient Wildcats improved their mark to 2-0 in the SEC with another come-from-behind victory, this time over Ole Miss. After getting off to a relatively slow start, sophomore Kristen Batt came alive, pounding out 24 kills and collecting 11 digs for her second double-double of the season.

Playing on the road against the likes of South Carolina, Florida, Arkansas and Georgia dealt the injury-devastated UK squad tough losses. The Cats dropped 12 consecutive matches during the latter part of the year but managed to grab a win in the SEC regular-season finale against rival Tennessee in a televised match on Senior Day. Just two days earlier, the Volunteers had handed the Wildcats a 3-1 loss in Knoxville.

After failing to reach the SEC Tournament, the Wildcats finished the season in Louisville, defeating Marquette before succumbing to the talented Cardinals.

Despite the team's sub-.500 record, the 2000 season provided several noteworthy individual performances. Weiskircher stood out as one of the most dominant players in the SEC. Her competitive nature and immense talents garnered her second-team All-SEC honors. However, the most impressive of all of Weiskircher's accomplishments was that she played in every game of every match during her last two seasons.

Barnhorst turned in a solid season as she also saw action in every game of every match. Barnhorst paced the Cats with 104 total blocks and increased her kills total for the third consecutive season. Fellow junior Whitney Sample enjoyed an outstanding season as the Wildcats' setter, amassing a total of 1,069 assists on the year. In three seasons, Sample has compiled 2,181 assists and stands at sixth in the all-time UK records book.

Talented outside hitters Batt and McCaslin proved themselves against stiff SEC competition. Batt led the club with 257 digs and was second behind Weiskircher with 320 kills. Batt rang up seven double-doubles on the season, including an astounding 27 kill, 26 dig performance against Georgia. McCaslin began to live up to lofty expectations, finishing the season with 161 kills and 128 digs.



Final 2000 Team Statistics

Record:	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
All Matches:	6-21	3-8	0-11	3-2
Conference:	3-11	3-3	0-8	0-0
Non-Conference:	3-10	0-5	0-3	3-2

#	STATS SUMMARY	ATTACK					Set		SERVE			DIG			BLOCKING						
		G	K	K/Game	E	TA	Pct	A	A/Game	SA	SE	SA/Gm	RE	DIG	Dig/G	BS	BA	Total	B/Game	BEBHE	
4	Megan Weiskircher	104	373	3.59	166	899	.230	10	0.10	22	50	0.21	45	250	2.40	10	81	91	0.88	11	4
13	Kristen Batt	92	320	3.48	151	893	.189	6	0.07	20	19	0.22	32	257	2.79	6	37	43	0.47	3	1
9	Liz McCaslin	75	161	2.15	64	481	.202	5	0.07	3	9	0.04	11	128	1.71	4	26	30	0.40	3	3
8	April Barnhorst	104	208	2.00	65	519	.276	8	0.08	0	1	0.00	0	30	0.29	11	93	104	1.00	14	2
2	Stephenie Taylor	40	79	1.98	62	234	.073	8	0.20	0	0	0.00	2	18	0.45	0	40	40	1.00	4	2
7	Sissy Canfield	83	123	1.48	68	327	.168	15	0.18	0	1	0.00	1	24	0.29	6	54	60	0.72	11	1
14	Melissa Kracht	40	54	1.35	47	182	.038	4	0.10	3	7	0.08	12	59	1.48	0	6	6	0.15	1	4
1	Brooke Dodson	45	52	1.16	46	184	.033	6	0.13	8	4	0.18	14	88	1.96	0	7	7	0.16	2	2
10	Kristi Kelley	18	13	0.72	7	33	.182	141	7.83	2	7	0.11	0	22	1.22	0	6	6	0.33	2	7
12	Whitney Sample	92	61	0.66	24	134	.276	1069	11.62	28	62	0.30	1	179	1.95	1	20	21	0.23	8	35
5	Stacey Wallace	42	11	0.26	2	37	.243	7	0.17	4	7	0.10	11	78	1.86	0	0	0	0.00	0	1
6	Aleisha Craven	102	10	0.10	27	78	-.218	15	0.15	15	46	0.15	44	216	2.12	0	0	0	0.00	0	2
3	Candace Cogan	102	9	0.09	16	95	-.074	17	0.17	15	34	0.15	26	208	2.04	0	0	0	0.00	0	4
TEAM		7																			
KENTUCKY		104	1475	14.18	745	4097	.178	1311	12.61	120	247	1.15	206	1557	14.97	38	371	223.5	2.15	59	68
Opponents		104	1593	15.32	692	4254	.212	1380	13.27	208	219	2.00	120	1549	14.89	49	375	236.5	2.27	62	72