2005-06 VOLUNTEERS BASKETBALL

TENNESSEE

2006 NCAA Tournament

First & Second Rounds
Greensboro, North Carolina
March 16 & 18






DANE BRADSHAW
JaJUAN SMITH
STANLEY ASUMNU
MAJOR WINGATE
ANDRE PATTERSON

2005 TENNESSEE 2006 BASKETBALL

Schedule/Results

Date	Opponent	Time/Result
N3	Southern Indiana (exh.)	W, 86-78
N11	Carson-Newman (exh.)	W, 106-73
N18	East Tennessee State (FSN/SUN)	W, 106-83
N22	Louisiana-Lafayette	W, 83-76
N25	Eastern Kentucky	W, 92-58
N30	1-Murray State	W, 64-53
D6	Appalachian State (CSS)	W, 89-81
D17	at #6 Texas (ESPN)	W, 95-78
D22	2-Oklahoma State (ESPN2)	L, 73-89
D27	Alabama A&M	W, 93-68
D29	Lipscomb (CSS)	W, 69-58
J4	South Alabama (FSN/SUN)	W, 87-69
J8	*at South Carolina (JP)	W, 76-69
J11	*Georgia	W, 89-76
J14	*at LSU (FSN/SUN)	L, 74-88
J18	at #4 Memphis (CSTV)	L, 79-88
J21	*#2 Florida (FSN/SUN)	W, 80-76
J25	*at Mississippi State	W, 88-65
J28	*South Carolina (FSN/SUN)	W, 81-65
F1	*Vanderbilt	W, 69-62
F4	*Mississippi (JP)	W, 86-72
F7	*at Kentucky (ESPN)	W, 75-67
F11	*at Georgia	W, 83-78
F15	*Auburn	W, 105-89
F18	*at Alabama (JP)	L, 79-92
F22	*at #12 Florida (JP)	W, 76-72
F25	*Arkansas (JP)	L, 69-73
M1	*Kentucky (JP)	L, 78-80
M4	*at Vanderbilt (JP)	W, 68-59
M10	3-South Carolina (JP)	L, 71-79
M16	4-Winthrop (CBS)	2:40 p.m.

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center
2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic
3-Southeastern Conference Tournament
4-NCAA Tournament
* Southeastern Conference Game
All Times Eastern and Subject To Change

Tennessee Sports Information

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Game #29

Tennessee (21-7, 12-4) vs. Winthrop (23-7, 13-3)

2:40 p.m. (EST) • Thursday, March 16, 2006
Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, North Carolina

Television: CBS (WVLT Channel 8 in Knoxville). Kevin Harlan will handle the play-by-play duties while Dan Bonner will join him to do the color commentary. Craig Silver produces.

Radio: The Vol Radio Network (50-plus stations covering 28 states). Bob Kesling is in his seventh year calling the play-by-play. Former Vol Bert Bertelkamp joins him courtside to provide the color commentary. Glenn Thackston is the producer. Tim Berry is the engineer.

Rankings: Tennessee is ranked 18th in the Associated Press Poll and 19th in the ESPN/USA Today Coaches Poll. Winthrop is receiving one vote in the Associated Press Poll.

Series: Tennessee leads 1-0 after taking a 75-62 victory on Nov. 14, 1997.

Coaches: Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl (Boston College 1982) is 21-7 in his first season at UT and 338-91 in his 14th season as a head coach. Winthrop head coach Gregg Marshall (Randolph-Macon 1985) is 165-77 in his eighth season in Rock Hill, S.C., and as a head coach.

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Tennessee Headquarters: Sheraton Four Seasons, 3121 High Point Road, Greensboro, NC 27407. Phone (336) 292-9161. Fax (336) 292-1407

Travel Plans: Tennessee will depart from Knoxville Tuesday evening via chartered flight.

Practices/Press Conferences: Tennessee players are scheduled to attend a press conference at the Greensboro Coliseum at 1:35 p.m. Wednesday, March 15. They will be followed by head coach Bruce Pearl at 1:50 p.m. The Vols will then practice at the arena from 2:15-2:55 p.m. The practice is open to the media and general public. Winthrop will attend press conferences beginning at 12:05 p.m. and will then practice at the arena from 12:45-1:25 p.m.

Probable Starters

Tennessee			Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown	PPG	RPG	APG
F	22	Andre Patterson	6-7	217	Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif.	9.6	6.6	1.5
F	23	Dane Bradshaw	6-4	200	Jr.	Memphis, Tenn.	7.4	5.5	4.0
C	1	Major Wingate	6-10	250	Jr.	Florence, S.C.	10.3	3.9	1.1
G	5	Chris Lofton	6-2	197	So.	Maysville, Ky.	17.3	3.6	1.9
G	32	C.J. Watson	6-2	176	Sr.	Las Vegas, Nev.	15.3	3.3	4.1

Winthrop			Ht.	Wt.	Yr.	Hometown	PPG	RPG	APG
F	0	James Shuler	6-6	220	Sr.	Jonesville, Fla.	13.4	4.3	3.5
F	33	Phillip Williams	6-8	215	Jr.	Cleveland, N.C.	5.5	3.4	0.6
C	5	Craig Bradshaw	6-10	245	Jr.	Wellington, N.Z.	12.9	6.0	1.4
G	10	Chris Gaynor	5-10	156	So.	Winston-Salem, N.C.	6.8	2.6	4.5
G	12	Torrell Martin	6-5	195	Jr.	Columbia, S.C.	13.8	5.4	1.4

• After playing one of the most difficult schedules in the nation, Tennessee was rewarded with a No. 2 seed in the 2006 NCAA Tournament. The Vols posted a 21-7 record on the season and won the SEC Eastern Division championship with a 12-4 league record. UT will meet 15th seeded and Big South Conference champion Winthrop in the first round Thursday, March 16, at the Greensboro Coliseum. The winner of the game will advance to meet the winner of the Wichita State - Seton Hall contest at 3:40 p.m. Saturday, March 18.

• This is Tennessee's 14th NCAA appearance and first since 2001. The Vols' No. 2 seed is the highest in school history, topping the No. 4 seeds they received in 1981, 1999 and 2000. UT has posted an 8-14 record in the NCAA Tournament.

• Winthrop is making its sixth NCAA Tournament appearance in the last eight years. The Eagles, who posted a 23-7 record on the season, won both the Big South Conference regular season and conference tournament titles.

• Bruce Pearl, who was named CBS Sportsline.com's national coach of the year, is coaching in his 12th NCAA Tournament in 14 years as a head coach. He led Southern Indiana to NCAA Tournaments in each of his nine seasons at the Division II school and then directed UW-Milwaukee to a pair of NCAA Tournaments in four seasons. He has won at least 20 games in 13 of his 14 years as a head coach.

Tennessee Trends

• Tennessee's last five regular season road games (at Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Florida and Vanderbilt) were each sold out.

• UT is shooting 39.3 percent from 3-point range as a team. The school record for 3-point percentage is 39.1 percent set in 1992-93.

• Bruce Pearl's 21 wins in his first season at the helm of the Tennessee program is tied for the best record by a first-year coach at UT. Don DeVoe (1978-89) also recorded 21 wins in his first season at UT.

• In Southeastern Conference games, Tennessee's opponents had a 4-12 record in the game immediately following their contests against the Vols. The only teams to win their next game after playing UT were Arkansas, Georgia, LSU and Vanderbilt.

• UT is 17-1 when leading with five minutes left in the game.

• UT's eight-game SEC winning streak (1/21 - 2/15) was its longest since the 1981-82 season when the Vols opened SEC play with nine consecutive wins.

• Chris Lofton's 31 points against Kentucky are tied for the most by a Vol in Rupp Arena. Dale Ellis (1983) and Allan Houston (1993) also poured in 31 points against the 'Cats in Rupp Arena.

• The Vols are 14-0 when scoring 80 or more points.

• With victories over No. 6 Texas and No. 2 Florida, Tennessee has recorded two wins over teams ranked in the top six of the Associated Press Poll in a season for just the second time in school history. The other time was in 1977 when Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King led UT to four wins over top-six teams.

• The win over second-ranked Florida was Tennessee's first over a team ranked that high since defeating No. 2 Kentucky 78-77 on Feb. 24, 1993.

• UT is 23-14 (.622) when playing before crowds of 20,000 or larger at Thompson-Boling Arena. This year the Vols were 4-2 playing in front of 20,000 fans at home.

• UT has rallied to overcome deficits of nine points or more six times. South Carolina (1/8/06) led by as many as 15 points in the second half before the Vols came back to win 76-69 in Columbia.

• The Vols have recorded at least 10 steals in 16 of their 28 games.

• Tennessee is getting an average of 21.7 points per game from its bench. The Vols' bench has contributed 607 points in 28 games this season.

• UT has recorded more than 100 more steals than its opponents. The Vols have 286 steals compared to just 175 by their opponents.

• Tennessee's opponents are averaging 18.5 turnovers per game this year. East Tennessee State's (11/18/05) 33 turnovers are the most by a UT opponent since American-Puerto Rico (12/21/99) turned the ball over 40 times. Ten times this season UT's opponents have turned the ball over at least 20 times.

• The Vols are playing with just 10 scholarship players this season. UT's roster lists 11 scholarship players but Tony Passley will sit out the season under NCAA transfer guidelines.

• The basketball court at Thompson-Boling Arena has been named "The Summitt" in honor of Pat Summitt, who recorded her 882nd career win in 2005.

• Tennessee has an all-time record of 1,366-891-2 in its 97th season of basketball.

• UT's 610 regular season Southeastern Conference victories rank third all-time in the SEC. Only Kentucky and Alabama have won more league games.

• Tennessee is 213-86 in its 19th season in Thompson-Boling Arena. The Volunteers have posted winning home records in 16 of their 18 previous seasons in the facility.

Media Information

Internet

Information on Tennessee and the SEC is available on the World Wide Web. To access information on Tennessee, visit the university's site at UTsports.com. Information on SEC Basketball, can be accessed on the Web at SECsports.com.

Covering Practice

Tennessee basketball practices are open to the media. Contact the sports information office for practice dates and times. Photographers are allowed to shoot practice but are asked to shoot only from the areas off the courts.

Tennessee players and coaches will be available for interviews at the conclusion of practice. If additional time is required with the players or coaches, contact Basketball SID Craig Pinkerton to make other arrangements.

Media Luncheon

Bruce Pearl will host a media luncheon at noon each Monday beginning in January.

Postgame Interviews

The Tennessee locker room is closed. Coach Bruce Pearl will meet with the media following a brief cooling off period. Requested UT players will be available for interviews in the media room following Pearl's press conference.

SEC Teleconference

The 12 SEC men's head basketball coaches are scheduled to participate every Monday and Thursday (Jan. 5 through March 6). The NCAA Tournament teleconference is set for Monday, March 13 at 11 a.m. (Eastern). It will feature coaches from all SEC teams participating in the NCAA Tournament.

Order of Appearance (All Times Eastern)

11:00 - Kevin Stallings, VU	11:42 - Bruce Pearl, UT
11:07 - Billy Donovan, UF	11:49 - Stan Heath, AR
11:14 - Dave Odom, SC	11:56 - Mark Gottfried, UA
11:21 - Dennis Felton, GA	12:03 - Jeff Lebo, AU
11:28 - John Brady, LSU	12:10 - Rod Barnes, UM
11:35 - Tubby Smith, UK	12:17 - Rick Stansbury, MS

Weekly Highlights And Interviews On Satellite

Highlights and interviews will be available on satellite every Monday from 3:30-3:45 p.m. (EST). The feed will be available beginning on Nov. 28 and will run through March 6. Due to holidays, there will not be a feed on Dec. 26 and the feeds scheduled for Monday, Jan. 2 and Jan. 15 will be broadcast on Tuesday, Jan. 3 and Jan. 16, respectively. Please credit Host Communications/UTV for any video used. The coordinates for the feed are SBS 6 (Ku), Transponder 2, Uplink Freq. 14049.5 (H), Downlink Freq. 11749.5 (V). For problems with the feed, call (865) 974-5069.

Tennessee Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (Last School)
1	Major Wingate	C	6-10	250	Jr.	Florence, S.C. (North Gwinnett [Ga.] HS)
2	JaJuan Smith	G	6-2	190	So.	Decatur, Tenn. (McMinn County HS)
3	Stanley Asumnu	G/F	6-5	215	Sr.	Houston, Texas (Hargrave Military Academy)
5	Chris Lofton	G	6-2	197	So.	Maysville, Ky. (Mason County HS)
11	Eddie DeBro	G	5-11	190	Sr.	Smyrna, Tenn. (Smyrna HS)
12	Justin Jackson	G	5-11	165	Fr.	Fredericksburg, Va. (Fredericksburg Academy)
15	Jordan Howell	G	6-3	188	So.	Auburn, Ala. (Bob Jones HS)
21	Jordan Smith	F	6-4	190	So.	Knoxville, Tenn. (West HS)
22	Andre Patterson	F	6-7	217	Sr.	Los Angeles, Calif. (UCLA)
23	Dane Bradshaw	G	6-4	200	Jr.	Memphis, Tenn. (White Station HS)
24	Tanner Wild	G	6-0	165	Fr.	Huntington, W.Va. (Huntington HS)
30	Ben Bosse	F	6-7	190	Fr.	Knoxville, Tenn. (Farragut HS)
31	*Tony Passley	F	6-5	195	So.	Indianapolis, Ind. (Redlands CC)
32	C.J. Watson	G	6-2	176	Sr.	Las Vegas, Nev. (Bishop Gorman HS)
34	Ryan Childress	F	6-9	250	Fr.	Cincinnati, Ohio (Moeller HS)
35	Damion Harris	C	6-10	275	Fr.	Greenville, S.C. (Prince Avenue Prep)
44	Jonah Cox	F	6-3	185	Sr.	Richmond, Va. (Huguenot HS)

** redshirting 2005-06 season as a transfer*

Basketball Staff

Head Coach: Bruce Pearl (Boston College 1982)

Associate Head Coach: Tony Jones (Concordia Univ. 1993)

Assistant Coach: Scott Edgar (Pittsburgh-Johnstown 1978)

Assistant Coach: Jason Shay (Iowa 1995)

Dir. of Operations: Ken Johnson (Albertson College 1993)

Basketball Trainer: Chad Newman (Tennessee 1994)

Strength Coach: Troy Wills (Emory & Henry 2000)

Pronunciation

Stanley Asumnu	ASSUME-new
Ben Bosse	BOSS-ee
Eddie DeBro	Duh-BRO
Tony Passley	PASS-lee
JaJuan Smith	JUH-wan

Winthrop Roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	Hometown (Last School)
0	James Shuler	F	6-6	220	Sr.	Jonesville, Fla. (Santa Fe HS)
3	Mantoris Robinson	G/F	6-5	195	Fr.	Charlotte, N.C. (Fork Union)
5	Craig Bradshaw	F/C	6-10	245	Jr.	Wellington, New Zealand (Wellington HS)
10	Chris Gaynor	G	5-10	156	So.	Winston-Salem, N.C. (Mt. Tabor HS)
11	Michael Jenkins	G	6-3	185	So.	Kinston, N.C. (Kinston HS)
12	Torrell Martin	G	6-5	195	Jr.	Columbia, S.C. (Airport HS)
21	Jason Killeen	C	6-10	265	So.	Limerick, Ireland (Notre Dame Academy)
22	Otis Daniels	F	6-5	215	Sr.	Greenwood, S.C. (Gardner-Webb University)
24	De'Andre Adams	G	5-8	158	Fr.	Austell, Ga. (South Cobb HS)
30	Billy Houston	C	6-8	240	Sr.	Fayetteville, N.C. (Seventy-First HS)
31	Taj McCullough	F	6-7	215	So.	Atlanta, Ga. (Carver HS)
32	Scott Draughn	F	6-6	215	So.	Hamden, Conn. (Hamden Prep)
33	Phillip Williams	F	6-8	215	Jr.	Cleveland, N.C. (West Rowan HS)
44	Jonathan Rice	F	6-5	205	Fr.	Columbia, S.C. (Keenan HS)

Looking At Winthrop

Winthrop enters the 2006 NCAA Tournament as a No. 15 seed with a 23-7 overall record ... The Eagles earned the Big South Conference's automatic bid by winning the league tournament ... Winthrop also won the Big South regular season title with a 13-3 record ... It is the sixth time in eight years that Winthrop has earned the Big South's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament ... Winthrop enters the tournament enjoying a five-game winning streak ... Senior forward James Shuler and junior guard Torrell Martin were named first team All-Big South for the second consecutive season ... Martin leads the Eagles with 13.8 points while Shuler is second on the team with 13.4 points per game ... Craig Bradshaw, a 6-foot-10 junior, is adding 12.9 points and a team-high 6.0 rebounds ... Chris Gaynor, a sophomore guard, led the Big South with 4.50 assists and an assist/turnover ratio of 3.00 ... Winthrop owns the second highest scoring offense in the Big South (73.8 ppg) and the league's best scoring defense (61.1 ppg) ... Gregg Marshall became the winningest coach in Winthrop history with his 161st career win against High Point (2/23/06) ... The three-time Big South Coach of the Year is 165-77 in his eighth season in Rock Hill,. S.C.

Statistical Comparison

Tennessee		Winthrop
81.3	Points	73.8
73.7	Opponent Points	61.1
+7.6	Scoring Margin	+12.7
.467	Field Goal %	.450
.472	Opponent Field Goal %	.399
39.3	Three-Point %	.364
36.1	Opponent Three-Point %	.319
70.1	Free Throw %	.694
33.4	Rebounds	36.4
36.4	Opponent Rebounds	30.9
-3.0	Rebounding Margin	+5.5
17.2	Assists	15.9
13.0	Turnovers	14.1
10.2	Steals	9.7
3.0	Blocks	3.3
21-7	Record	23-7
14th	AP Rank	None

Individual Statistical Leaders

Tennessee		Winthrop
Lofton, 17.3	Points	Martin, 13.8
Patterson, 6.6	Rebounds	Bradshaw, 6.0
Watson, 4.1	Assists	Gaynor, 4.5
Wingate, 55.3	FG %	Bradshaw, 53.9
Lofton, 45.3	3Pt %	Martin, 41.1
Lofton, 91.7	FT %	Shuler, 85.2

The Winthrop Series

This will be just the second meeting between Tennessee and Winthrop ... The Vols won the first meeting 75-62 on No. 14, 1997 in Knoxville ... Tennessee is 17-4 all-time against teams from the Big South Conference.

Last Meeting With Winthrop

In Jerry Green's first game as the head coach at Tennessee the Vols defeated Winthrop 75-62 on Nov. 14, 1997 ... The win was UT's 100th in Thompson-Boling Arena ... Aaron Green and Isiah Victor came off the bench to lead the Vols with 10 points each ... All 13 players on the UT roster saw action with 11 recording 11 minutes or more of playing time ... Winthrop's Andrew McFalls was the game's top scorer with 16 points ... The Vols shot 55 percent from the field in the second half and led by as many as 28 points in the final half.

Tennessee - Winthrop Connections

Winthrop's Otis Daniels played against Tennessee while playing for Gardner-Webb in 2002-03 ... Daniels led the Bulldogs with 16 points and had a game-high eight rebounds.

Last Game: Vols Fall At SEC Tournament

South Carolina upset Tennessee 79-71 Friday, March 10, in the semifinals of the 2006 SEC Tournament in Nashville ... The Gamecocks shot 70.0 percent (14-of-20) in the second half and finished the game shooting 54.9 percent ... South Carolina went on a 9-3 run to finish the first half and never trailed in the second half ... USC led by as many as 17 points in the second half ... C.J. Watson led the Vols with 23 points on 8-of-12 shooting from the field ... Chris Lofton scored all of his 12 points in the second half and Dane Bradshaw added 10 points ... Tre' Kelley led USC with 25 points on 7-of-13 shooting from the field and 9-of-10 shooting from the free throw stripe ... The Vols committed 21 turnovers off 12 South Carolina steals.

2005-06 SEC Standings

As of March 13

Eastern Division	SEC	Pct.	ALL	Pct.
Tennessee!	12-4	.750	21-7	.750
Florida@	10-6	.625	27-6	.818
Kentucky	9-7	.563	21-12	.636
Vanderbilt	7-9	.438	17-12	.586
South Carolina	6-10	.375	18-15	.546
Georgia	5-11	.313	15-15	.500

!-SEC East Division Champion; @- SEC Tournament Champion

Western Division	SEC	Pct.	ALL	Pct.
LSU^#	14-2	.875	23-8	.742
Alabama	10-6	.625	17-12	.586
Arkansas	10-6	.625	22-9	.710
Mississippi State	5-11	.313	15-15	.500
Auburn	4-12	.250	12-16	.429
Ole Miss	4-12	.250	14-16	.467

^-SEC Champion; #-SEC West Division Champion

SEC Schedule

March 15 (Wednesday)
Vanderbilt at Notre Dame (NIT)
Western Kentucky at South Carolina (NIT)

March 16 (Thursday)
[2] Tennessee vs. [15] Winthrop (NCAA)
[3] Florida vs. [14] South Alabama (NCAA)
[4] LSU vs. [13] Iona (NCAA)
[10] Alabama vs. [7] Marquette (NCAA)

March 17 (Friday)
[8] Kentucky vs. [9] UAB (NCAA)
[8] Arkansas vs. [9] Bucknell (NCAA)

Tennessee In The NCAA Tournament

The Vols are making their 14th appearance in the NCAA Tournament and their first since 2000-01 ... UT has an 8-14 all-time record in the NCAA Tournament ... The Vols are 6-6 in the first round of the tournament ... This is the third time that the Vols have participated in an NCAA Tournament in Greensboro ... UT also went to Greensboro for the 1980 and 1989 NCAA Tournaments ... It marks the fifth year Tennessee is playing an NCAA Tournament game in the state of North Carolina ... UT also participated in NCAA Tournament games in Charlotte (1976, 1981 and 1999).

Vols' No. 2 Seed Highest Ever

Tennessee is the No. 2 seed in the Washington D.C. Regional ... It is the highest seed Tennessee has ever received ... The previous high was a No. 4 seed (1981, 1999 and 2000).

13 Opponents Get Postseason Invitations

Thirteen of Tennessee's 22 opponents received postseason bids this season ... Nine teams earned NCAA Tournament invitations while four were invited to participate in the National Invitation Tournament ... Four of the Vols' opponents earned No. 4 seeds or better in the NCAA Tournament, including No. 1 seeded Memphis and No. 2 seeded Texas.

UT's Experience In The NCAA Tournament

• Andre Patterson is the only Vol with playing experience in the NCAA Tournament. Patterson was a freshman on UCLA's team that advanced to the Sweet 16 of the 2002 NCAA Tournament with wins over Mississippi and Cincinnati before falling to Missouri.

• Bruce Pearl is coaching in his 12th NCAA Tournament as a head coach. Last year he led UW-Milwaukee to the Sweet 16. He directed the Panthers to two NCAA Tournament appearances in four seasons in Milwaukee. He also led Southern Indiana to nine NCAA Division II Tournaments, including a national championship in 1994. As an assistant at Boston College (2), Stanford and Iowa (5) he helped lead his teams to seven NCAA Tournaments.

• UT assistant coach Scott Edgar is coaching in his 13th NCAA Tournament. As a head coach he led Murray State to two NCAA Tournament appearances. As an assistant to Nolan Richardson at Arkansas (1985-91) he helped lead the Razorbacks five NCAA Tournaments, including the 1990 Final Four. At UAB he helped direct the Blazers to two NCAA Tournaments in three years, including a trip to the 2004 Sweet 16.

• Associate head coach Tony Jones has coached in two previous NCAA Tournaments, including UW-Milwaukee's run to the Sweet 16 last season.

2005-06 Honors

Bruce Pearl
National Coach of the Year (*The Sporting News*)
National Coach of the Year (CBS SportsLine.com)
Phelan Award Finalist
USBWA All-District IV Coach of the Year
SEC Coach of the Year (CBS SportsLine.com)
SEC Coach of the Year (CollegeInsider.com)
SEC Coach of the Year (ESPN.com's Pat Forde)

Chris Lofton
Wooden Award Finalist
Second Team All-America (*The Sporting News*)
Second Team All-America (FOXSports.com)
Third Team All-America (NABC)
USBWA District IV Player of the Year
First Team All-SEC (Coaches)
NABC All-District 7 First Team
SEC Player of the Week (Dec. 19)
SEC Player of the Week (Jan. 23)
SEC Player of the Week (Feb. 13)
ESPN.com National Player of the Week (Feb. 13)
FOXSports.com National Player of the Week (Feb. 13)
CollegeInsider.com SEC Most Valuable Player

C.J. Watson
USBWA All-District IV
Second Team All-SEC (Coaches)
NABC All-District 7 Second Team
SEC Player of the Week (Dec. 5)

Stanley Asumnu
SEC Good Works Team

Dane Bradshaw
SI.com All-Glue Team

• Assistant coach Jason Shay played in two NCAA Tournaments at Iowa and is coaching in his third NCAA Tournament.

The Sporting News Honors Pearl & Lofton

The Sporting News named Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl its national Coach of the Year after guiding the Vols to a 21-7 overall record and a 12-4 Southeastern Conference record ... Lofton was named a second team All-America by *The Sporting News* ... lofton was joined on the second team by Allan Ray (Villanova), Leon Powe (California), Glen Davis (LSU) and Shelden Williams (Duke) ... First team selections included J.J. Redick (Duke), Randy Foye (Villanova), Brandon Roy (Washington), Adam Morrison (Gonzaga) and Tyler Hansbrough (North Carolina).

Pearl's 21 Wins Rare For A 1st Year Coach

Bruce Pearl has led Tennessee to 21 wins in his first season at the helm of the Vols' program ... It marks just the seventh time in SEC history that a first-year head coach has led his team to 21 or more wins ... Following is a list of coaches who have earned 21 or more wins in their first year at an SEC school:

Coach, School	Record	Pct.	Year
Tubby Smith, Kentucky	35-4	.897	1997-98
Eddie Sutton, Kentucky	32-4	.889	1985-86
Dave Odom, South Carolina	22-15	.595	2001-02
Bruce Pearl, Tennessee	**21-7**	**.750**	**2005-06**
Tubby Smith, Georgia	21-10	.677	1995-96
Don DeVoe, Tennessee	21-12	.636	1978-79
Eddie Fogler, Vanderbilt	21-14	.600	1989-90

Pearl's First Year At UT Has Been Impressive

Having led the Vols to a 21-7 overall record and a national ranking as high as No. 8, Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl has been receiving a lot of mention as a candidate for national coach of the year from media around the country ... When considering what Pearl and the Vols have accomplished this season there is no question why he is receiving this attention.

• Despite being picked to finish fifth out of six teams in the SEC East this season, the Vols posted a 12-4 league record and won the SEC's Eastern Division.

• All of UT's core players have seen their production go up this season when compared to last year.

• The Vols won on the road at No. 6 Texas, at No. 12 Florida and at Kentucky. They also earned season sweeps over South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Vanderbilt.

• Tennessee was 9-1 against the SEC East.

• UT's average attendance of 17,954 is the third-largest in school history and an increase of more than 5,500 fans over last year's average.

• Tennessee's roster isn't loaded with All-Americas. In fact, UT's roster lists just one high school All-America (C.J. Watson was fourth team *Parade* All-America).

• The Vols lost two of their top four scorers from last year's team that posted a 14-17 overall record and finished fifth in the SEC East.

• ESPN's Jay Bilas said on March 4, "Coach of the Year often times means exceeding expectations. I would go ahead and go to Bruce Pearl at Tennessee. He's done an extraordinary job of taking a team and making them believe they can win at the highest level."

Pearl A Finalist For Phelan Award

Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl is one of 15 finalists for the 2006 Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year that was announced March 1 ... The award honors legendary Jim Phelan, who coached more games then anyone in the history of college basketball at Mount St. Mary's ... The 20-member selection panel, which is chaired by Phelan, is headlined by ESPN's Jay Bilas and former Kentucky All-American Kyle Macy ... All final ballots will be cast by March 12 and the winner will be announced at the 2006 Final Four in Indianapolis, Ind.

Lofton A Finalist For Wooden Award

Chris Lofton was one of 22 players named on March 5 to the official voting ballot for the 2005-06 Wooden Award All-American Team and Player of the Year, presented annually to the nation's top collegiate basketball player ... The winner will be announced on Saturday, April 8 ... Lofton was one of five newcomers selected to the National Ballot who were not selected to the Midseason list ... In order to be considered for the National Ballot, all players must have been accredited by their university as meeting the Wooden Award criteria which includes making normal progress towards graduation and maintaining a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher ... A panel of over 1,000 voters comprised of sports media members and college basketball experts from around the nation will cast their votes for both the 10-member All-American Team and the Wooden Award.

Bill Justus Named SEC Legend

Knoxville native Bill Justus will be one of 12 former SEC greats who will be honored at the 2006 SEC Tournament in Nashville as a Chick-fil-A SEC Basketball Legend ... Justus will be recognized at halftime of Tennessee's game on Friday, March 10 ... A 1969 first team All-America, Justus was a two-time first team All-SEC selection after earning honorable mention honors as a sophomore in 1967 ... A 6-foot-1 guard known for his deft shooting touch, he knocked down the winning free throws in a triple overtime win at Mississippi State for the 1967 SEC title ... In 1968-69 he captained the Vols' 21-7 team that finished second in the SEC ... He led the NCAA while setting a school record with his 90.5-percent (133-of-147) free throw shooting in 1969 ... His 22 free throws made against Ohio University remains a school record ... He equalled his success on the court with success in the classroom as he was named to Academic All-SEC and All-America honors in 1968.

Tennessee Quick Facts

Location	Knoxville, Tennessee
Founded	1794
Conference	Southeastern
Enrollment	25,058
Home Court	Thompson-Boling Arena
Capacity	24,535
Record In Arena	213-86 / 19th Year
First Game	12/3/87 (Tennessee 82, Marquette 56)
Largest Crowd	25,610 vs. Kentucky (1/21/89)
Colors	Orange & White
Nickname	Volunteers
Mascot	Smokey
Band	Pride of the Southland
President	Dr. John Petersen
Faculty Representative	Dr. Todd Diacon
Athletic Director	Mike Hamilton
Athletic Department Phone	(865) 974-1220
Ticket Office Phone	(865) 656-1200

History

First Year Of Basketball	1908-09
All-Time Record	1,366-891-2
NCAA Tournament Appearances	14 (1967, 76, 77, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 89, 98, 99, 00, 01, 06)
Last NCAA Opponent	Charlotte (3/16/01)
Result	L, 63-70
National Invitation Tournament Appearances	11 (1945, 69, 71, 84, 85, 88, 90, 92, 96, 03, 04)
Last NIT Opponent	at George Mason (3/17/04)
Result	L, 55-58

Team Information

2005-06 Overall Record	21-7
Home / Away / Neutral	13-2 / 7-3 / 1-2
SEC Record	12-4
Home / Away / Neutral	6-2 / 6-2 / 0-0
SEC Finish	1st (East)
Ranking (AP / USA Today)	14th / 15th

Coaching Staff

Head Coach	Bruce Pearl (Boston College 1982)
Record at Tennessee	21-7 (1st Year)
Career Record	338-91 (14th Year)
Basketball Office Phone	(865) 974-1206
Basketball Office Fax	(865) 974-0097
Best Time To Reach Coach	Contact SID
Associate Head Coach	Tony Jones (Concordia University 1993)
Assistants	Scott Edgar (Pittsburgh-Johnstown 1978)
	Jason Shay (Iowa 1995)
Director of Basketball Operations	Ken Johnson (Albertson College 1993)
Basketball Trainer	Chad Newman (Tennessee 1994)
Strength Coach	Troy Wills (Emory & Henry 2000)

Sports Information

Basketball SID	Craig Pinkerton (Kansas State 1994)
Home Phone	(865) 670-1821
Cell Phone	(865) 414-1167
E-mail	craig@tennessee.edu
Associate AD/SID	Bud Ford (Tennessee 1966)
Associate SID	John Painter (Tennessee 1988)
Assistant SID	Tom Satkowiak (Tennessee 2002)
SID Office Phone	(865) 974-1212
SID Office Phone (Night)	(865) 974-1212
SID Office Fax	(865) 974-1269
Press Row Phone (Scores & Updates)	(865) 544-0789
SID Mailing Address	P.O. Box 15016 Knoxville, TN 37901
Overnight Address	1720 Volunteer Blvd., Room 255 Knoxville, TN 37996
Web Address	www.UTsports.com

UT Honors Mears And Ward

Tennessee honored former coach Ray Mears and Vol Network announcer John Ward for their contributions and years of service to the Tennessee basketball program by hanging banners bearing their names in the rafters of Thompson-Boling Arena ... UT made the presentation at halftime of the Kentucky game (3/1/06) ... A two-time Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year (1967 and 1977) Mears is Tennessee's all-time winningest coach with a 278-112 record in 15 seasons ... Ward called Tennessee basketball games from 1965 through the 1999 season ... In 1976 he was named the best college announcer in the nation and 28 times he was named Sportscaster of the Year in Tennessee.

Vols Win 20 For 19th Time

Tennessee recorded its 19th 20-win season in school history with a 76-72 win at 12th-ranked Florida (2/22/06) ... The Vols required just 24 games to reach the 20-win mark this season which is the second-fastest in school history to 20 wins ... Only the 1999-2000 squad reached the milestone faster, needing 23 games ... It is the 13th time in 14 years as a head coach that Bruce Pearl has led a team to 20 wins in a season.

Defying Preseason Predictions
Tennessee Wins SEC's Eastern Division

Almost a consensus pick to finish no better than fifth in the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division, the Vols proved every preseason prediction wrong this year ... Tennessee's 12-4 league record earned the school its third Eastern Division title and the East's No. 1 seed in the SEC Tournament in Nashville ... It marks UT's first divisional title since the 1999-2000 season when the Vols won a share of the SEC East championship ... It is the third time since the SEC split into divisions in 1991-92 that Tennessee has won the SEC East.

Lofton Breaks 3-Point Records

Having already broken Tennessee's single-game record for 3-pointers with nine against Georgia (2/11/06), Chris Lofton broke the single-season 3-point record against Kentucky (3/1/06) ... With three 3-pointers against the Wildcats, Lofton broke Allan Houston's single-season school record of 99 set in 1990-91 ... Lofton has made 106 triples this season ... Last season, Lofton's 93 treys were the most-ever by an SEC freshman and currently rank third on UT's single-season lists ... In his second season in Knoxville, he has made 199 3-pointers.

Tennessee In The SEC Statistics

	All Games		SEC Games	
Team	Rank	Stat	Rank	Stat
Scoring Offense	1	81.3	1	79.8
Scoring Defense	12	73.7	12	73.9
Scoring Margin	4	+7.6	4	+5.8
Free Throw Percentage	3	.701	5	.695
Field Goal Percentage	3	.467	3	.463
Field Goal % Defense	12	.472	11	.480
3-Point FG Percentage	3	.393	2	.391
3-Point FG % Defense	10	.361	4	.340
Rebounding Offense	9	33.4	7	33.1
Rebounding Defense	11	36.4	11	36.1
Rebounding Margin	12	-3.0	10	-2.9
Blocks	10	3.04	T-10	2.44
Assists	1	17.21	1	16.38
Steals	1	10.21	1	9.50
Turnover Margin	1	+5.50	1	+4.56
Assist/Turnover Ratio	1	1.33	1	1.31
Offensive Rebounds	10	11.54	10	11.81
Defensive Rebounds	7	21.82	7	21.31
3-Point FG Made	1	8.89	1	8.81

Through Games of March 13

	All Games		SEC Games	
Individual	Rank	Stat	Rank	Stat
Scoring				
Chris Lofton	3	17.3	3	18.1
C.J. Watson	7	15.3	13	14.3
JaJuan Smith	--	--	T-20	11.9
Rebounding				
Andre Patterson	11	6.6	11	6.9
Dane Bradshaw	16	5.5	20	5.1
Field Goal Percentage				
Chris Lofton	5	.479	5	.497
Free Throw Percentage				
C.J. Watson	3	.873	4	.889
3-Point FG Percentage				
Chris Lofton	2	.453	1	.469
JaJuan Smith	9	.373	9	.379
3-Point FG Made				
Chris Lofton	1	3.79	1	3.81
JaJuan Smith	9	2.04	T-6	2.25
Assists				
C.J. Watson	9	4.07	9	4.19
Dane Bradshaw	10	3.96	--	--
Steals				
C.J. Watson	3	2.07	T-2	1.94
Chris Lofton	4	2.04	7	1.69
Dane Bradshaw	7	1.82	--	--
Blocks				
Andre Patterson	--	--	T-10	1.38
Assist/Turnover Ratio				
Dane Bradshaw	1	2.71	1	2.50
C.J. Watson	4	1.93	2	2.09
Offensive Rebounds				
Andre Patterson	10	2.46	10	2.44
Defensive Rebounds				
Andre Patterson	--	--	10	4.50
Minutes Played				
None				

Lofton's Free Throw Steak Comes Up One Short

Chris Lofton came within one free throw of tying Tennessee's school record for consecutive free throws made ... The sophomore guard made 38 consecutive free throws before missing his first attempt at Vanderbilt (3/4/06) ... The school record for consecutive free throws made is 39 by Danny Schultz (12/2/1963 to 12/28/1963) and by Michael Brooks (1/30/1985 to 3/6/1985) ... Lofton made 39-of-40 free throws in SEC games and was also 2-of-2 against Memphis (1/18/06) during the streak ... On the season he is shooting 91.7 percent (55-of-60) from the free throw line ... The only reason he did not qualify for the SEC leaders is because he is not averaging the minimum of 2.5 free throws per game to be listed.

Watson Climbing Charts

This has been a memorable season for senior point guard C.J. Watson as he has scored his 1,000th point and dished out his 500th career assist already this year ... The Las Vegas native ranks among Tennessee's top 25 all-time scorers and is second in assists and steals.

• Watson ranks 17th all-time at UT with 1,395 career points.

• His 574 career assists are second only to Johnny Darden's (1975-79) 715 career assists. The 574 career assists rank 10th in Southeastern Conference history.

• He ranks second in school history with 197 career steals. Vincent Yarbrough (1998-02) is UT's record holder with 211 career thefts.

Pearl Is A League Leader

Bruce Pearl has coached 57 consecutive regular season league games where his team has either been in first place or within a game of first place ... The streak began at UW-Milwaukee where he coached 41 consecutive games in that situation and it has continued through his 16 SEC games at Tennessee ... This year the Vols won the SEC's Eastern Division championship with a 12-4 conference mark ... The last time Pearl was not within a game of first place was Jan. 23, 2003 when UWM was entering a game with Butler, 1 1/2 games behind the Bulldogs in the conference standings ... The Panthers won that contest to move to within a half game of Butler and eventually took over the league lead.

School Records For 3s Falling

Tennessee broke school records for 3-pointers in consecutive games ... Against Georgia (2/11/06) Chris Lofton broke Allan Houston's school record for 3-pointers in a game when he drilled nine 3-pointers against the Bulldogs ... Against Auburn (2/15/06) the Vols broke the team record for 3-pointers in a game when UT made 16 triples against the Tigers.

Vols Approaching Team Records

• Tennessee's 21 wins this season are tied for fifth all-time. One more win would tie for the second-most wins in school history. Three times (2001, 1985 and 1977) UT won 22 games in a season.

• UT's 249 3-pointers rank third all-time. Only two teams have made more triples in a season. In 2000 the Vols made 266 treys and in 2001 they made 257.

• Only two Tennessee teams have attempted more 3-pointers in a season. The 2000 squad attempted 736 3-pointers and the 2001 team shot 697 times behind the arc. This year the Vols have attempted 633 triples.

• UT's 39.3 percent shooting from 3-point range is the best in school history. The previous school record was 39.1 percent in 1993.

• UT's 286 steals this season rank third on the school's single-season charts. The Vols need seven steals to break the school record of 292 set by the 1989 team.

A Band Of Thieves

Tennessee's pressure defense has given its opponents all kinds of trouble this season as the Vols' opponents are averaging 18.5 turnovers per game.

• UT leads the SEC in steals (10.21 spg) and turnover margin (+5.50).

• Three Vols rank in the top seven in the SEC in steals. C.J. Watson (2.07 spg) is third, Chris Lofton is fourth (2.04 spg) and Dane Bradshaw is seventh (1.82 spg).

• Bradshaw leads the league in assist-to-turnover ratio (2.71) while Watson is fourth (1.93).

• The Vols have had more assists than turnovers in 20 of their 28 games this year.

• On the season, UT has 482 assists to 363 turnovers (1.33 assists-to-turnovers).

• Conversely, the Vols' opponents have had more turnovers than assists in 19 of 28 games (0.87 assists-to-turnovers).

Volunteers Bombardiers

While Chris Lofton has bogarted much of the attention as a dangerous 3-point shooter, he is not the only member of Tennessee's squadron of long-range bombers ... Lofton, C.J. Watson and JaJuan Smith have formed to make one of the most dangerous shooting backcourts in the nation ... The trio has combined to make 209 3-pointers in 28 games this season ... UT leads the SEC and ranks 15th in the nation with 8.89 3-pointers per game ... The Vols are making 39.3 percent of their 3s, a figure that ranks third in the SEC and 17th nationally.

• Lofton is leading the SEC and ranks third in the nation with 3.79 triples per game. He also leads the SEC with his 45.3 percent (106-of-234) shooting from behind the arc.

• Watson has improved upon his 37.5 percent shooting last season to convert 43.0 (46-of-107) of his 3-pointers this year.

• Smith has given the Vols a huge scoring boost coming off the bench. He is second on the team with 57 3-pointers on the season.

• Lofton, Watson and Smith are not the only 3-point bombers on the Vols' roster. Jordan Howell has made 40.5 percent (15-of-37) of his 3-point attempts this season. Dane Bradshaw has shown a propensity for hitting the big 3-point shot like when he sealed UT's win at South Carolina (1/8/06).

Associated Press Poll

(Final)

Rank	Team	Record	Points	Prev
1.	Duke	30-3	1783	3
2.	Connecticut	27-3	1709	1
3.	Villanova	25-4	1626	2
4.	Memphis	30-3	1610	5
5.	Gonzaga	27-3	1509	4
6.	Ohio State	25-5	1347	7
7.	Boston College	26-7	1243	11
7.	UCLA	27-6	1243	13
9.	Texas	27-6	1215	8
10.	North Carolina	22-7	1060	10
11.	Florida	27-6	1006	16
12.	Kansas	25-7	1001	17
13.	Illinois	25-6	907	9
14.	George Washington	26-2	890	6
15.	Iowa	25-8	825	20
16.	Pittsburgh	24-7	816	15
17.	Washington	24-6	623	12
18.	Tennessee	21-7	572	14
19.	LSU	23-8	533	18
20.	Nevada	27-5	413	21
21.	Syracuse	23-11	377	_
22.	West Virginia	20-10	312	19
23.	Georgetown	21-9	177	23
24.	Oklahoma	20-8	131	22
25.	UAB	24-6	130	24

Others receiving votes: Bucknell 91, Michigan St. 57, Arkansas 46, N.C. State 28, S. Illinois 28, San Diego St. 17, Texas A&M 17, Marquette 14, N.C.-Wilmington 13, Wichita St. 9, Kentucky 5, Arizona 4, California 3, Cincinnati 2, Kent St. 2, Missouri St. 2, Montana 1, Pacific 1, Utah St. 1, Winthrop 1.

ESPN/USA Today Poll

(March 13)

Rank	Team	Record	Points	Prev
1.	Duke (27)	27-3	770	3
2.	Connecticut (4)	27-2	729	1
3.	Memphis	27-3	708	5
4.	Villanova	24-3	692	2
5.	Gonzaga	26-3	643	4
6.	Ohio State	23-4	572	7
7.	Boston College	24-6	536	11
8.	UCLA	24-6	531	12
9.	Texas	25-5	526	8
10.	Florida	24-6	474	14
11.	George Washington	26-1	440	6
12.	North Carolina	21-6	432	10
13.	Kansas	22-7	402	18
14.	Illinois	25-5	395	9
15.	Iowa	22-8	355	20
16.	Pittsburgh	21-6	338	16
17.	Washington	24-5	247	13
18.	LSU	22-7	231	17
19.	Tennessee	21-6	219	15
20.	Oklahoma	20-7	149	19
21.	Nevada	24-5	126	24
22.	Syracuse	19-11	120	NR
23.	West Virginia	20-9	98	21
24.	Georgetown	19-8	92	23
25.	UAB	22-5	65	25

Others receiving votes: Bucknell 45, N.C. State 43, Michigan State 26, California 11, NC Wilmington 11, San Diego State 10, Southern Illinois 8, Marquette 6, Pacific 4, Wichita State 4, Texas A&M 3, Kent State 3, Murray State 3, Arkansas 3, South Alabama 2, Northwestern St. 1, Alabama 1, Indiana 1.

Bench Mob

The day before Tennessee's game against second-ranked Florida (1/21/06), head coach Bruce Pearl passed out t-shirts that had the words "Bench Mob" printed on them to recognize the impact of the players coming off the bench ... Although some of the starters liked the shirts and wanted one, only players who came off the bench were allowed one ... Tennessee's bench has played key roles in some of the Vols' biggest victories ... The Vols are getting an average of 21.7 points (607 points in 28 games) per game from its bench this season.

• The Vols got 29 points from their bench in the upset of No. 2 Florida (1/21/06), including 12 points and 10 rebounds from Andre Patterson.

• The bench also contributed 31 points in UT's 95-78 win at No. 6 Texas. JaJuan Smith and Andre Patterson each had 12 points.

Improved Vols

Every returning scholarship player has seen their offensive production increase exponentially this season ... The improvements account for an additional 34.1 points per game ... All eight regular players have exceeded their scoring totals from last season (Stanley Asumnu, Dane Bradshaw, Jordan Howell, Chris Lofton, Andre Patterson, JaJuan Smith, C.J. Watson and Major Wingate) ... Following is a list of players who have seen increased scoring totals this year:

Player	2005 ppg	2006 ppg	Differential
JaJuan Smith	1.9	9.6	+7.7 ppg
Stanley Asumnu	2.4	8.3	+5.9 ppg
Major Wingate	5.0	10.3	+5.3 ppg
Dane Bradshaw	3.0	7.4	+4.4 ppg
Chris Lofton	13.2	17.3	+4.1 ppg
C.J. Watson	11.9	15.3	+3.6 ppg
Andre Patterson	7.4	9.6	+2.2 ppg
Jordan Howell	1.1	2.0	+0.9 ppg

Vols In The NCAA Stats

Tennessee is prominently listed among the national leaders according to the March 6 NCAA statistics. Following is where the Vols rank nationally:

- Steals per game: 10.3 spg / 5th
- Scoring offense: 81.7 ppg / 8th
- Assists per game: 17.4 apg / 13th
- 3-pointers per game: 8.8 3pg /15th
- 3-point percentage: 39.4 percent / 18th
- Turnovers per game: 12.7 tpg / 34th
- Scoring margin: +8.2 ppg / 41st
- 3-pointers per game: Chris Lofton - 3.8 3pg / 5th
- 3-point percentage: Chris Lofton - 45.8 % / 10th
- FT percentage: C.J. Watson - 87.6 % / 21st

UT Wins 600th SEC Game

Tennessee won its 600th all-time Southeastern Conference game with an 89-76 victory over Georgia (1/11/06) ... In their 73rd season of SEC play, the Vols have posted a 610-484 mark in league games ... Only Kentucky (832) and Alabama (684) have won more SEC games.

Vols In The Record Books

Career Scoring

1.	2801	Allan Houston, 1989-93
2.	2249	Ernie Grunfeld, 1973-77
3.	2219	Tony White, 1983-87
4.	2103	Reggie Johnson, 1976-80
5.	2065	Dale Ellis, 1979-83
6.	1962	Bernard King, 1974-77
7.	1877	Dyron Nix, 1985-89
8.	1737	Vincent Yarbrough, 1999-02
9.	1683	Carl Widseth, 1952-56
10.	1651	Brandon Wharton, 1995-99
11.	1600	Michael Brooks, 1981-85
12.	1588	Tony Harris, 1998-01
13.	1569	Ron Slay, 2000-03
14.	1432	Ron Widby, 1965-67
15.	1418	Steve Hamer, 1993-96
16.	1407	Jimmy England, 1969-71
17.	**1395**	**C.J. Watson, 2002-present**
18.	1343	Mike Edwards, 1971-73
19.	1319	Herman Thompson, 1954-57
20.	1304	Isiah Victor, 1998-01
21.	1263	Brandon Crump, 2001-05
22.	1261	C.J. Black, 1997-2000
23.	1243	Mike Jackson, 1974-77
24.	1236	Bill Justus, 1967-69
25.	1225	A.W. Davis, 1963-65
26.	1217	Ed Wiener, 1952-55
27.	1202	Len Kosmalski, 1972-74
28.	1201	Howard Wood, 1978-81
29.	1199	Gary Carter, 1979-82
30.	1198	Greg Bell, 1988-91
31.	1196	Don Johnson, 1969-71
32.	1173	Paul Walther, 1945-1949
33.	1156	Lang Wiseman, 1990-93
34.	1149	Fred Jenkins, 1984-87
35.	1096	Terry Crosby, 1976-79
36.	1071	Bobby Croft, 1968-70
37.	1070	Rob Jones, 1983-86
38.	1020	Gene Tormohlen, 1957-59
--	**895**	**Chris Lofton, 2004-present**

Career Steals

1.	211	Vincent Yarbrough, 1998-02
2.	**197**	**C.J. Watson, 2002-present**
3.	177	Fred Jenkins,1983-87
4.	173	Tyrone Beaman,1980-84
5.	154	Dale Ellis, 1979-83
6.	150	Brandon Wharton, 1995-99
7.	145	Tony Harris, 1997-01
8.	138	LaMarcus Golden, 1992-94
	138	Dyron Nix, 1985-89
10.	133	Allan Houston, 1989-93

Season Steals

1.	78	LaMarcus Golden, 1993-94
2.	67	Tyrone Beaman, 1982-83
3.	66	Clarence Swearengen, 1988-89
4.	64	Ian Lockhart, 1989-90
5.	60	LaMarcus Golden, 1992-93
6.	**58**	**C.J. Watson, 2005-06**
	58	Vincent Yarbrough, 2001-02
	58	C.J. Watson, 2004-05
9.	**57**	**Chris Lofton, 2005-06**
10.	55	Vincent Yarbrough, 1999-00
	55	Clarence Swearengen, 1987-88
	55	Vincent Yarbrough, 2000-01
--	**51**	**Dane Bradshaw, 2005-06**
--	**39**	**JaJuan Smith, 2005-06**

Career Assists

1.	715	Johnny Darden, 1975-79
2.	**574**	**C.J. Watson, 2002-present**
3.	525	Rodney Woods, 1972-75
4.	509	Tony Harris, 1997-01
5.	491	Tyrone Beaman, 1980-84
6.	460	Allan Houston, 1989-93
7.	397	Michael Brooks, 1980-83,84-85
6.	388	Fred Jenkins, 1983-87
9.	352	Jon Higgins, 1999-03
10.	332	Bert Bertelkamp, 1976-80

Career 3-Pointers Made

1.	346	Allan Houston, 1989-93
2.	240	Tony Harris, 1997-01
3.	231	Brandon Wharton, 1995-99
4.	209	Jon Higgins, 1999-03
5.	**199**	**Chris Lofton, 2004-present**
6.	179	Vincent Yarbrough, 1998-02
7.	171	Greg Bell, 1987-91
8.	**162**	**C.J. Watson, 2002-present**
9.	152	Lang Wiseman, 1989-93
10.	108	Scooter McFadgon, 2003-05

Season 3-Pointers Made

1.	**106**	**Chris Lofton, 2005-06**
2.	99	Allan Houston, 1990-91
3.	93	Chris Lofton, 2004-05
4.	83	Allan Houston, 1989-90
5.	82	Allan Houston, 1991-92
	82	Allan Houston, 1992-93
7.	73	Tony Harris, 1999-00
8.	66	Greg Bell, 1989-90
9.	65	Scooter McFadgon, 2003-04
10.	64	Tony Harris, 1998-99
--	**57**	**JaJuan Smith, 2005-06**

Career 3-Pointers Attempted

1.	817	Allan Houston, 1989-93
2.	665	Tony Harris, 1997-01
3.	578	Brandon Wharton, 1995-99
4.	526	Vincent Yarbrough, 1998-02
5.	525	Jon Higgins, 1999-03
6.	**434**	**Chris Lofton, 2004-present**
7.	429	Greg Bell, 1987-91
8.	425	Lang Wiseman, 1989-93
9.	**408**	**C.J. Watson, 2002-present**
10.	300	Scooter McFadgon, 2003-05

Season 3-Pointers Attempted

1.	**234**	**Chris Lofton, 2005-06**
2.	231	Allan Houston, 1990-91
3.	200	Chris Lofton, 2004-05
4.	198	Allan Houston, 1992-93
5.	196	Allan Houston, 1991-92
6.	193	Tony Harris, 1999-00
7.	192	Allan Houston, 1989-90
8.	176	Ed Gray, 1993-94
9.	171	Scooter McFadgon, 2003-04
10.	170	Lang Wiseman, 1990-91
--	**153**	**JaJuan Smith, 2005-06**

Season 3-Point Percentage

1.	.486	Jon Higgins, 2000-01
2.	.465	Chris Lofton, 2004-05
3.	**.453**	**Chris Lofton, 2005-06**
4.	.434	Mark Griffin, 1988-89
5.	.432	Allan Houston, 1989-90
6.	.431	Greg Bell, 1989-90
7.	**.430**	**C.J. Watson, 2005-06**
	.430	Brandon Wharton, 1996-97
9.	.429	Brandon Wharton, 1997-98
	.429	Allan Houston, 1990-91
11.	.418	Allan Houston, 1991-92
12.	.414	Allan Houston, 1992-93

Career Blocked Shots

1.	212	C.J. Black, 1996-00
2.	146	Doug Roth, 1985-89
3.	142	Dyron Nix, 1985-89
4.	140	Isiah Victor, 1997-01
5.	133	Charles Hathaway, 1996-01
6.	131	Vincent Yarbrough, 1998-02
7.	122	Steve Hamer, 1992-96
8.	119	Reggie Johnson, 1976-80
9.	116	Marcus Haislip, 1999-02
10.	112	Rob Jones, 1982-86
11.	107	Brandon Crump, 2001-05
12.	90	Willie Burton, 1980-84
13.	**63**	**Andre Patterson, 2004-present**
14.	**62**	**Major Wingate, 2003-present**
	62	Michael Curry, 1989-92

Career Games Started

1.	128	Allan Houston, 1989-93
2.	125	Vincent Yarbrough, 1998-02
3.	122	Jon Higgins, 1999-03
4.	119	Tony Harris, 1997-01
5.	**116**	**C.J. Watson, 2002-present**
6.	113	Brandon Wharton, 1995-99
7.	107	C.J. Black, 1996-00
8.	100	Brandon Crump, 2001-05
9.	99	Tony White, 1983-87
10.	97	Willie Burton, 1980-84
	97	Dyron Nix, 1985-89

Career Minutes Played

1.	4606	Allan Houston, 1989-93
2.	4034	Tony White, 1983-87
3.	**3998**	**C.J. Watson, 2002-present**
4.	3995	Michael Brooks, 1981-85
5.	3943	Dale Ellis, 1979-83
6.	3904	Brandon Wharton, 1995-99
7.	3859	Vincent Yarbrough, 1998-02
8.	3780	Jon Higgins, 1999-03
9.	3741	Dyron Nix, 1985-89
10.	3689	Tony Harris, 1997-01

SEC Single-Season 3-Pointers

1.	117	Jamel Bradley, SC - 2002
2.	113	Eric Washington, UA - 1996
3.	108	Lance Weems, AU - 1996
4.	**106**	**Chris Lofton, UT - 2006**
5.	103	Frank Seckar, VU - 1996
	103	Scotty Thurman, AR - 1995
7.	101	Travis Ford, UK - 1993
	101	Scott Draud, VU - 1991
9.	99	Allan Houston, UT, 1991
	99	Derrick Miller, UK - 1990
	99	Anthony Roberson, UF - 2004

SEC Career Assists

1.	830	Sean Tuohy, UM - 1979-82
2.	748	Kareem Reid, AR - 1996-99
3.	715	Johnny Darden, UT - 1975-79
4.	664	Terry Coner, UA - 1984-87
5.	656	Dirk Minniefield, UK - 1980-83
6.	645	Kenny Higgs, LS - 1975-78
7.	638	Ethan Martin, LS - 1977-81
8.	624	Gerald White, AU - 1983-87
9.	619	Gary Waites, UA - 1988-91
10.	**574**	**C.J. Watson, UT - 2002-pres.**
11.	573	Wes Flanigan, AU - 1994-97
12.	544	Anthony Epps, UK - 1994-97
	544	Torris Bright, LS - 2000-03
14.	525	Rodney Woods, UT - 1972-75
15.	514	Derrick Zimmerman, MS - 2000-03
17.	510	Al Perry, MS - 1975-78
18.	509	Tony Harris, UT - 1997-01
19.	503	R. Montgomery, UF - 1984-88

SEC 1000 Points / 500 Assists

1395 / 574 C.J. Watson, UT - 2002-pres.
1475 / 748 Kareem Reid, AR - 1996-99
1214 / 664 Terry Coner, UA - 1984-87
1069 / 656 Dirk Minniefield, UK - 1980-83
1896 / 645 Kenny Higgs, LS - 1975-78
1276 / 638 Ethan Martin, LS - 1977-81
1208 / 573 Wes Flanigan, AU - 1994-97
1463 / 544 Torris Bright, LS - 2000-03
1588 / 509 Tony Harris, UT - 1997-01

Vols Return To Rankings

Tennessee is ranked 14th by the Associated Press and 15th by ESPN/USA Today in the March 6 polls ... The No. 8 ranking UT achieved on Feb. 13 is the Vols' highest since being ranked eighth in the Jan. 29, 2001 Associated Press Poll ... This is the first season since 2000-01 that the Vols have been ranked ... That year, UT peaked at No. 4 in the Associated Press Poll.

Date	Associated Press	ESPN/USA Today
Dec. 12	--	--
Dec. 19	23rd	rv
Dec. 26	rv	rv
Jan. 2	rv	rv
Jan. 9	rv	rv
Jan. 16	rv	rv
Jan. 23	19th	20th
Jan. 30	13th	16th
Feb. 6	11th	14th
Feb. 13	8th	10th
Feb. 20	10th	11th
Feb. 27	11th	11th
March 6	14th	15th
March 13	18th	19th

Rally Vols

Tennessee has rallied from deficits of at least nine points in six games this season ... Five of the rallys have been away from Thompson-Boling Arena.

• Murray State (11/30/05) built a nine-point lead early in the second half before the Vols rallied for a 64-53 victory in Nashville ... At one point during the UT rally, Chris Lofton outscored the Racers 12-1.

• Appalachian State (12/5/05) took a 12-point lead with just over six minutes left in the first half but UT went on a 19-2 run to take a 48-46 lead at halftime.

• UT rallied from a 15-point second half deficit to defeat South Carolina (1/8/06) in Columbia.

• Tennessee rallied from a 12-point first half deficit at Georgia (2/11/06) to take an 83-78 win in Athens.

• Florida led the Vols by 13 points (36-23) late in the first half of their game in Gainesville (2/22/06) but Tennessee rallied for a 76-72 victory.

• Vanderbilt led by 16 points (37-21) with 17:30 remaining in the second half in Nashville (3/4/06) before the Vols rallied for a 68-59 victory.

• Against Oklahoma State (12/22/05) the Vols rallied from a 16-point halftime deficit to cut the lead to one point but could never overtake the Cowboys.

Lofton & Watson Earn NABC All-District Honors

Chris Lofton and C.J. Watson were named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District 7 Team on February 17 ... Lofton was a first team selection while Watson was a second team pick ... The teams are selected by a panel of member coaches of the NABC ... First team selections included Chris Lofton (Tennessee), Rodney Carney (Memphis), Taquan Dean (Louisville), Anthony Winchester (Western Kentucky) and Rajon Rondo (Kentucky). Second team picks were Shan Foster (Vanderbilt), Darius Washington Jr. (Memphis), Tim Smith (East Tenn. State), C.J. Watson (Tennessee) and Courtney Lee (Western Kentucky).

Lofton & Watson Earn SEC Player Of The Week Honors

Four times this season a Tennessee player has earned SEC Player of the Week honors ... Chris Lofton has earned the honor three times and C.J. Watson has been named recipient of the award once.

• Watson took home player of the week honors Dec. 12 after scoring a season-high 23 points against Appalachian State Dec. 5.

• Lofton was named the co-SEC Player of the Week on Dec. 19 after leading the Vols to a 95-78 upset at sixth-ranked Texas. Lofton, who shared the award with Kentucky's Rajon Rondo, scored a game-high 21 points on 5-of-9 3-point shooting against the Longhorns.

• Lofton won the award again on Jan. 23 following a 29-point performance in Tennessee's victory over then-No. 2 Florida.

• On Feb. 13 Lofton won the award for a third time after averaging 32.0 points and 6.5 rebounds in wins at Kentucky and Georgia. He shot 16-of-22 (72.7 percent) from 3-point range in the two games.

Asumnu Named To Good Works Team

Senior guard/forward Stanley Asumnu was featured as the SEC Good Works Team Player of the Week the week of Feb. 22-26 ... The Houston, Texas native has participated for three years in the annual National Student Athlete Day community service event, known as April Play Day ... Along with his teammates, he helped deliver turkeys to Second Harvest Food Bank as part of the "Blocks for Turkeys" program ... He spoke at a youth probationary boot camp about team work and assisted the Oak Ridge Lab with their United Way Lick-Off event ... He also participated with teammates and football team members in Orange Aid 2005 by signing autographs and mingling to benefit victims of Hurricane Katrina ... Asumnu joins C.J. Watson (2004 & 2005), Jon Higgins (2001, 2002 & 2003) and C.J. Black (2000) as Vols named to the SEC Good Works Team.

Bradshaw Named To All-Glue Team

Junior guard/forward Dane Bradshaw was named to SI.com's seventh annual All-Glue team on Feb. 14 ... The team was compiled by Seth Davis to honor the guys who "may not get credit for doing the little things in most places" ... Davis wrote that Bradshaw "has a moxie that well suits his fiery new coach" ... Joining Bradshaw on the All-Glue team are: Sean Dockery (Duke), Mike Hall (George Washington), Sean Marshall (Boston College), Luc Richard Mbah a Moute (UCLA), Kenton Paulino (Texas).

Smith Named "Best Player Off The Bench"

Sophomore guard JaJuan Smith was named the "Best Player Off The Bench" by Nashville's *The Tennessean* newspaper in a ranking of the best and worst of the Southeastern Conference for a special insert during the SEC Tournament ... The paper wrote, "He provides instant offense off the bench, can make pressure-packed 3-pointers and also defends well on the perimeter." ... Smith has been the first Vol off the bench in all but one of Tennessee's games this season ... The newspaper also listed Chris Lofton as the "Best Pure Shooter," C.J. Watson as "Best Player With The Ball," Bruce Pearl as the "Best Coach With A Quote," and Dane Bradshaw as the "Player Opposing Fans Love To Hate."

Watson & Lofton Named One Of Top Backcourts In The Nation

SI.com named Tennessee's backcourt of C.J. Watson and Chris Lofton the No. 8 backcourt in the nation on Jan. 20 ... They were the only SEC backcourt to receive mention on the list ... Following is a list of their rankings of the top 10 backcourts nationally:

1. Randy Foye and Allan Ray, Villanova
2. Maurice Ager and Shannon Brown, Michigan State
3. Jordan Farmar and Arron Afflalo, UCLA
4. Marcus Williams and Rashad Anderson, UConn
5. Curtis Stinson and Will Blalock, Iowa State
6. Robert Vaden and Marshall Strickland, Indiana
7. J.R. Pinnock and Carl Elliott, George Washington
8. **C.J. Watson and Chris Lofton, Tennessee**
9. Adam Haluska and Jeff Horner, Iowa
10. Steve Burtt Jr. and Ricky Soliver, Iona

Tennessee's Recruiting Class Ranks Among Best In Nation

Bruce Pearl's first recruiting class at the University of Tennessee has drawn rave reviews and has been rated as one of the best classes in the Southeastern Conference and among the top 10 classes in the nation ... The Vols signed four players during the early signing period in November: Wayne Chism, Duke Crews, Marques Johnson and Josh Tabb.

• Chism, a 6-foot-9 forward from Bolivar, Tenn., is a four-star prospect who is rated the No. 42 overall player in the country. As a junior he led Bolivar Central High School to the Class AA state title while averaging 13.6 points, 10 rebounds, seven blocks and 2.2 assists per game. At the Reebok ABCD Camp last summer he was rated the No. 2 center.

• One of the highest-rated players to sign with the Vols in recent years, Crews is a 6-7 forward from Hampton, Va. Rated the No. 14 player in the nation, he is considered a five-star prospect. As a junior he averaged 16 points per game while leading Bethel High School to a 22-4 record. Last summer Crews was rated as the No. 2 player at the 2005 Nike Camp in Indianapolis.

• Ranked among the top-50 players by several scouting services, Johnson is a 6-5 guard from Fort Wayne, Ind. A starter since his freshman season, the two-time all-conference selection has led Snider High School to a 50-15 record in his three years. As a junior he averaged 21 points, 6.2 rebounds and four assists.

• A four-star prospect, Tabb is a 6-4 guard from Harmony Christian Prep in Cincinnati. A two-time Class A All-State selection who is originally from Carbondale, Ill., Tabb averaged 21 points, five assists and six rebounds as a senior while leading Carbondale High School to the 2005 state championship game.

Can I Get A Witness?

Tennessee saw a considerable increase in the size of its crowds at Thompson-Boling Arena this season ... The crowds at UT's home games this season increased by 5,504 fans per game over last season

• Six times UT had home crowds of more than 20,000 ... Entering this season, there had been only one home crowd of 20,000 or more this decade.

• Tennessee ranked second in the SEC in home attendance with an average of 17,954. Kentucky leads the league with 22,763.

• The Vols' attendance of 17,954 this season is an increase of 5,504 fans per game over last year's average of 12,450 per game.

• UT averaged 20,796 fans in SEC games.

• Tennessee's average attendance of 17,954 ranks third all-time in school history and the best since the Vols averaged 19,313 fans in the Arena's second year (1988-89)

• Fans have also flocked to see the Vols play on the road. Almost 2,000 orange-clad fans were in attendance at Georgia's Stegeman Coliseum to see the Vols play the Bulldogs.

Vols Rank 5th Nationally In Attendance

Tennessee's increase of more than 5,500 fans per home game this season has vaulted the Vols into the top five nationally in attendance as of March 6 ... Following is a list of the top 10 schools in attendance:

1.	Kentucky	22,764
2.	Syracuse	21,587
3.	North Carolina	20,240
4.	Louisville	19,044
5.	**Tennessee**	**17,954**
6.	Maryland	17,950
7.	Wisconsin	17,142
8.	Indiana	16,949
9.	Illinois	16,618
10.	Kansas	16,300

Las Vegas Dealer: Watson Deals Assists

One could only dream of sitting down at a blackjack table and seeing a dealer as friendly as Tennessee's point guard C.J. Watson ... The senior from Las Vegas has dealt nothing but aces and face cards while running the Vols' attack ... Twice he has led the Southeastern Conference in assists and this year he has taken on a larger scoring role while also dishing out the assists ... This year the 6-foot-2 Watson is averaging 15.3 points and 4.07 assists per game.

• In 2004-05 (5.00 apg) and 2002-03 (5.44 apg) he led the SEC in assists against league opponents.

• Watson owns three of the top 13 single-season assist marks in Tennessee history.

• Watson is the Southeastern Conference's active career leader in assists with 574.

• His 574 career assists are second all-time at UT and 10th on the SEC's career lists.

• Watson's 4.07 assists per game are currently ninth in the SEC.

Lofton 3s

Sophomore sharpshooter Chris Lofton had a week for the ages in leading the Vols to wins at Kentucky (2/7/06) and at Georgia (2/11/06) ... In the two games he averaged 32.0 points on 72.7 percent (16-of-22) 3-point shooting to go with 6.5 rebounds ... On the season he is leading Tennessee with 17.3 points per game ... He is making an SEC-best 3.79 3-pointers per game and is shooting 45.3 percent from behind the arc ... He also ranks fourth in the SEC with 2.04 steals per game.

• Against Kentucky, the Maysville, Ky., native recorded a career-high 31 points on 7-of-10 shooting from 3-point range in leading the Vols to a 75-67 win. It is just UT's fourth win in 31 trips to play UK in Rupp Arena.

• His 31 points against Kentucky are tied for the most by a Vol in Rupp Arena. Dale Ellis (1983) and Allan Houston (1993) also poured in 31 points against the 'Cats in Rupp Arena.

• At Georgia he had his second career-high in as many games with 33 points on 9-of-12 3-point shooting in leading UT to an 83-78 win.

• Lofton's nine 3-pointers at Georgia broke Allan Houston's single-game school record of eight 3-pointers he set against Fordham (12/29/89).

• His nine 3-pointers against the Bulldogs are tied for fifth on the Southeastern Conference's single-game list. They are tied for the third-most in a conference game.

• He became the first Vol since Allan Houston in 1993 to have 30 or more points in back-to-back games. Houston had 31 vs. South Carolina (1/6/93) and 31 vs. Kentucky (1/9/93).

• 106 triples this season are a school record. They rank fourth on the SEC's single-season list.

• Just a sophomore, he ranks fifth all-time at UT with 199 career 3-pointers made.

• Following a 6-of-7 shooting performance at South Carolina (1/8/06), Dane Bradshaw was quoted saying, "Chris (Lofton) is like a 9-0 run himself."

Lofton Is More Than A Shooter

There is no doubt that Chris Lofton is a great 3-point shooter but, there is a lot more to the sophomore guard's game than just hoisting amazing shots from long-range.

• Lofton is shooting a team-best 91.7 percent (55-of-60) from the free throw line on the season. In conference play, he shot 97.5 percent (39-of-40) from the stripe.

• He ranks second on the team and fourth in the Southeastern Conference with 2.04 steals per game. Two times this season he has had five steals in a game.

• Lofton is fourth on the team with 52 assists on the season. Five times he has had four assists in a game this year.

• The Maysville, Ky., native ranks third in the SEC with 17.3 points per game on the season. In league games, his 18.1 points were third in the SEC.

Bradshaw Playing Power/Point

With only four scholarship players taller than 6-foot-5 on the roster, junior guard Dane Bradshaw has been called upon to play big, quite literally ... The 6-4 backup point guard has earned starting assignments at power forward for each of the Vols' games this year ... Playing in the paint isn't anything new for the Memphis native ... In 2005 he drew difficult defensive assignments by guarding 6-8, 252-pound Brandon Bass against LSU (2/5/05) and 6-10 Jermareo Davidson of Alabama (2/9/05).

• Bradshaw is second on the team in assists (111), rebounding (5.5 rpg), and is third in steals (1.8 spg) and blocks (0.4 bpg).

• His assist-to-turnover ratio of 2.71 leads the SEC.

• His 1.82 steals per game are seventh in the SEC.

• His 3.96 assists per game are 10th in the SEC.

• Seven times this season he has led the Vols in rebounding, including a career-high 12 boards against ETSU (11/18/05) and Vanderbilt (2/1/06).

• Twelve times he has led UT in assists, including a career-high eight against South Alabama (1/4/06), Georgia (1/11/06) and at Georgia (2/11/06).

• Against South Alabama (1/4/06) he recorded a career-high eight assists while gathering five rebounds, scoring six points and making three steals.

• He had a streak of 181 minutes (seven games) without a turnover come to an end in the first half of the Vols' game against Georgia (1/11/06). During the streak, which started in the first half of the Appalachian State (12/6/05) game, he recorded 34 assists.

• South Carolina head coach Dave Odom gave Bradshaw a strong compliment following UT's 81-65 win in Knoxville (1/28/06), "I know this is a fairly bold statement and not something I would say lightly, but if there were a vote taken by media and/or coaches in this conference at this time, I think without any question that Dane Bradshaw would be the MVP of this league. I think he's playing that well."

Bradshaw Is A Warrior Against Memphis

Playing his first collegiate game in his hometown of Memphis, Dane Bradshaw had one of the most impressive games a college basketball player has had all season ... Having to deal with hecklers that had singled him out from the moment the doors opened, Bradshaw put on a show against the fourth-ranked Memphis Tigers at the FedExForum ... Playing in the post against UM's front line of 6-foot-9 Shawne Williams and 6-9 Joey Dorsey, the 6-4 Bradshaw scored a career-high 21 points on 9-of-13 shooting to go with 10 rebounds (five of them offensive), five steals and four assists ... Not backing down for a moment during the game, he drew a charge call in the second half when a Dorsey elbow caught him just below his eye that gave him a black eye.

Wingate Stepping Up In The Paint

Major Wingate wasn't going to let anything stop him from playing against Louisiana-Lafayette on Nov. 22 ... After suffering a foot injury in practice two days earlier that left him on crutches, Wingate spent the next two nights in the training room rehabbing the injury so he could play ... When it came time to play, Wingate was there standing in the center circle ready for the jump ball ... The junior from Florence, S.C., scored 12 points and blocked three shots in 28 minutes of action against the Ragin' Cajuns ... Defensively, he held Louisiana's star center Michael Southall to just four points and four rebounds.

- On the year he ranks third on the team with 10.3 points per game.
- Wingate has scored in double-figures in 19 of UT's 28 games ... In two previous season he had reached double-figure scoring just three times.
- Against sixth-ranked Texas (12/19/05) Wingate played a key role in limiting LaMarcus Aldridge to just four field goals. Aldridge, who finished with 15 points total, scored just one point when Wingate was guarding him.
- Wingate is leading the Vols with a 55.3 (114-of-206) field goal percentage on the season. In SEC games he improved that number to 58.4 percent (59-of-101).

JaJuan Smith Giving Vols A Spark Off The Bench

JaJuan Smith, a 6-foot-2 guard from Decatur, Tenn., has seen his role grow from 8.0 minutes per game as a freshman last year to 24.4 minutes per game this season ... This year he has tied or established new career marks for scoring (19), rebounds (8), assists (6), steals (4), blocks (1) and minutes played (31) ... Smith, who has been the first player off the bench in 27 of Tennessee's 28 games this season, is averaging 9.6 points per game ... His 57 3-pointers are second and his 54 assists are third on the team.

- Smith had one of the best games of his career at sixth-ranked Texas when he came off the bench to score 12 points on 4-of-6 shooting from 3-point range.
- He recorded career marks for scoring (19 points), rebounding (seven boards) and steals (four thefts) in leading the Vols to an 86-72 win over Mississippi (2/4/06).

Patterson Works His Way Into Starting Lineup

Andre Patterson played well enough to be a starter in Tennessee's first 15 games this season, averaging 9.7 points and 5.6 points coming off the bench ... Against Mississippi State (1/25/06) he finally earned a spot in the starting lineup ... He responded well, registering 13 points and 11 rebounds against the Bulldogs ... In the 13 games since gaining a starting spot, the 6-foot-7 senior is averaging 9.5 points and 7.7 rebounds per game.

- Patterson became the first Vol in four seasons to record three consecutive double-doubles when he had 12 points, 10 rebounds against Florida (1/21/06), 13 points, 11 rebounds at Mississippi State (1/25/06) and 13 points and 12 rebounds against South Carolina (1/28/06).
- Patterson recorded a career-high 14 rebounds against Murray State (11/30/05) while recording his third career-double-double.
- Against second-ranked Florida's (1/21/06) much taller front line he registered 12 points and 10 rebounds, including four offensive boards.

Asumnu Shooting To Make UT Better

Stanley Asumnu has saved his best basketball for his senior season, and the later the season gets, the better the 6-foot-5 wing gets ... Since being moved to the bench following the Florida (1/21/06) game, Asumnu has averaged 7.4 points and 2.8 rebounds in those 13 games ... Most impressively, the Houston native is shooting 55.7 percent (44-of-79) from the field over his last 13 outings ... On the season, he is averaging 8.3 points and 2.9 rebounds per game.

- A career 39.7 percent shooter entering this season, Asumnu is connecting on 51.0 percent of his field goals as a senior.
- In his first three seasons he averaged 3.6 points per game but has improved that number to 8.3 points as a senior.
- It took Asumnu just seven games this season to score 67 points, surpassing the 63 points he scored in 26 contests as a junior.

Eddie "The Show" DeBro

Senior walk-on Eddie DeBro needed just eight minutes to put on a show in Tennessee's win over South Alabama (1/4/06) ... DeBro, inserted into the lineup when Stanley Asumnu got into early foul trouble, recorded two assists, two rebounds and a steal in eight minutes of first half action against the Jaguars ... Each of those numbers are career-highs for the native of Smyrna, Tenn. ... One play in particular saw the 5-foot-11 DeBro get a steal and then run the fast break, making an impressive bounce pass to C.J. Watson for the lay up.

Vols & Lofton Receive National Honors

After scoring road wins at Kentucky (2/7/06) and at Georgia (2/11/06), Tennessee was named the national Team of the Week on Feb. 13 by Mike DeCourcy of SportingNews.com ... In addition to being named the SEC Player of the Week on Feb. 13, Chris Lofton was named the national Player of the Week by ESPN.com and FOXSports.com ... Lofton made 16-of-22 3-pointers while averaging 32.0 points in the Vols' games against the Wildcats and Bulldogs.

ESPN's The Season Follows The Vols

College basketball fans around the nation can get a behind-the-scenes look at the Tennessee Volunteers on the reality show "The Season" ... The cameras from Intersport Television followed Tennessee's coaches and players as they traveled to Georgia on Feb. 11 and hosted Auburn on Feb. 15 ... The 30-minute show debuted Wednesday, Feb. 22 on ESPN2.

Vol Radio Network

The broadcasting tandem of "Bob and Bert" are in their seventh season of describing the action from Tennessee basketball games across the Volunteer state on the Vol Radio Network. Bob Kesling will handle the play-by-play duties while former Vol Bert Bertelkamp will serve as color analyst. The tandem can be heard on over 60 stations throughout the state of Tennessee and much of the Southeast. Nighttime coverage of the Vol Radio Network reaches portions of 28 states. Fans outside the range of the radio network may listen over the Internet via utsports.com or telephone by using TEAMLINE (1-800-846-4700).

Market	Station
Bristol	WOPI - AM 1490
Camden	WRJB - FM 98.3
Chattanooga	WGOW-FM 102.3
Clarksville	WJZM-AM 1400
Cleveland	WCLE - FM 104.1
Columbia	WKOM - FM 101.7
Columbia	WMCP - AM 1280
Cookeville	WHUB - AM 1400
Crossville	WCSV - AM 1490
Crossville	WOWF-FM 102.5
Dresden	WCDZ - FM 95.1
Erwin	WEMB - AM 1420
Fayetteville	WYTM - FM 105.5
Franklin	WAKM - AM 950
Greeneville	WIKQ - FM 103.1
Jackson	WDXI - AM 1310
Johnson City	WKTP - AM 1590
Kingsport	WKPT - AM 1400
Kingsport	WKOS - FM 104.9
Knoxville	WNOX - AM 990
Knoxville	WIVK - FM 107.7
LaFollette	WQLA - FM 104.9
Lawrenceburg	WDXE - FM 95.9
Lenoir City	WLIL - AM 730
Lewisburg	WJJM - AM 1490
Lewisburg	WJJM - FM 94.3
Lexington	WBFG - FM 96.5
Livingston	WLIV - AM 920
Livingston	WLIV - FM 104.7
Manchester	WFTZ - FM 101.5
McMinnville	WAKI - AM 1230
Memphis	WREC - AM 600
Morristown	WCRK - AM 1150
Murfreesboro	WBOZ - FM 104.9
Nashville	WLAC - AM 1510
Newport	WLIK - AM 1270
Oneida	WBNT - FM 105.5
Paris	WTPR - AM 710
Paris	WTPR - FM 101.5
Portland	WQKR-AM 1270
Pulaski	WKSR- AM 1420
Pulaski	WKSR - FM 98.3
Savannah	WKWX - FM 93.5
Shelbyville	WZNG - AM 1400
Smithville	WJLE - AM 1480
Smithville	WJLE - FM 101.7
South Pittsburg	WEPG - AM 910
Spring City	WAYA-FM 101.3
Union City	WENK - AM 1240
Wartburg	WECO - FM 101.3
Winchester	WCDT - AM 1340

Tennessee Basketball Programming Lineup

Tennessee Tipoff Show: Vol Network coverage begins with this informative and entertaining show which airs 30 minutes before tipoff. Bob Kesling and Bert Bertelkamp set the stage from the game site. Network host John Wilkerson previews action around the country and the SEC.

Game Broadcast: Bob Kesling and Bert Bertelkamp describe the exciting play-by-play action of Tennessee basketball.

Big Orange Scoreboard: After each game John Wilkerson gets listeners caught up with scores, reports and updates from the SEC and around the country. The Vol Network provides an exclusive courtside interview with the player of the game as well as additional interviews from the Tennessee locker room. Bob Kesling recaps the game with a review of the final statistics.

Bruce Pearl Show: Following each game UT head coach Bruce Pearl gives an exclusive interview with Bob Kesling and Bert Bertelkamp.

Bruce Pearl TV Show

Chattanooga	WTVC Ch. 9	Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Knoxville	WBIR Ch. 10	Saturday, 1:00 p.m.
Memphis	WMC Ch. 5	Saturday, 12:00 p.m.
Nashville	WZTV Ch. 17	Saturday, 11:30 a.m.
Tri-Cities	WKPT Ch. 19	Saturday, 12:00 p.m.
Regional	Fox Sports Net	Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
Regional	CSS	Monday, 5:00 p.m.
Regional	CSTV	Friday, 5:00 p.m.
Regional	E+ TV (Ch. 6 Cable-Jackson)	Saturday, 12:30 p.m.

VOL 7 NETWORK

Streak's Alive

With a 69-62 win over Vanderbilt, Bruce Pearl was assured of a winning record in his first season as Tennessee's head coach ... Pearl, who owns a 338-90 record in his 14th season as a head coach, has never had a losing season as a head coach.

Watson Reaches 1,000 Points In Unique Way

C.J. Watson became the 38th player in Tennessee history to reach the 1,000 career point milestone in a 17-point outing against Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05) ... Watson, who now has 1,395 career points, reached the milestone when he was fouled on a made 3-pointer and then scored his 1,000th point on the free throw.

Largest Crowds In Thompson-Boling History

Six times Tennessee drew home crowds of more than 20,000 this season ... Four of them rank among the top 30 crowds in Thompson-Boling Arena history ... Following is a list of some of the top crowds in arena history.

Rk	Attend	Opponent (Date)	Rk	Attend	Opponent (Date)
1.	25,610	Kentucky (1/21/89)	16.	22,605	LSU (1/13/88)
2.	25,272	Marquette (12/3/87)	17.	22,548	Kentucky (2/23/94)
3.	25,125	Kentucky (1/12/91)	18.	22,457	Kentucky (2/24/93)
4.	24,433	Florida (1/23/88)	**19.**	**22,543**	**Arkansas (2/25/06)**
5.	24,378	Kentucky (2/17/88)	20.	22,449	Kentucky (2/23/00)
6.	**24,108**	**Kentucky (3/10/6)**	21.	22,317	Kentucky (2/8/95)
7.	**24,011**	**Florida (1/21/06)**	22.	22,244	Kentucky (2/21/90)
8.	23,969	ETSU (11/25/91)	23.	22,144	LSU (1/11/89)
9.	23,764	Vanderbilt (1/9/88)	24.	22,141	Florida (2/12/00)
10.	23,156	Kentucky (1/21/92)	25.	22,111	Vanderbilt (2/21/98)
11.	23,146	Kentucky (1/24/98)	26.	22,015	Memphis (12/29/88)
12.	23,115	Kentucky (2/17/96)	27.	21,717	Miss State (2/27/88)
13.	23,108	ETSU (11/28/89)	**28.**	**21,612**	**Georgia (1/11/06)**
14.	23,106	Kentucky (2/28/99)	29.	21,546	Vanderbilt (3/4/89)
15.	22,843	LSU (2/10/90)	**30.**	**21,280**	**ETSU (11/18/05)**

Home Court Advantage

Thompson-Boling Arena has provided the Vols with a definite home court advantage since the facility opened in time for the 1987-88 season.

- Tennessee is 213-86 (.712) in its 19th season in Thompson-Boling Arena.
- Since the 1998 season, the Vols are 114-27 (.809) in Thompson-Boling Arena.
- The Vols are 52-20 against SEC teams at home over the last nine seasons.
- UT has won 67 of its last 74 home games against non-conference opponents.

Vols Show Their Appreciation

Immediately following their season-opening win over East Tennessee State, Bruce Pearl and the Vols went out on the concourse of Thompson-Boling Arena to thank the fans for their support ... The 21,680 fans in attendance for the Vols' season-opening win over East Tennessee State (11/18/05) was the fourth-largest crowd to see a season-opener in school history ... It was the largest crowd to watch a basketball game that night (including both NCAA and NBA attendance figures).

• The Vols also showed their appreciation to the nearly 2,000 fans who traveled to Stegeman Coliseum to see UT defeat Georgia (2/11/06). After the game, Tennessee's players went into the crowd to thank the orange-clad faithful who had made the trip to Athens.

Pearl Won 87 Percent Of Games In 2005

Frank Sinatra may have had Bruce Pearl in mind when he crooned that "It Was A Very Good Year" ... In fact, 2005 was a great year for Pearl as he won 87.1 percent of his games during the calendar year ... Pearl was 19-3 at UW-Milwaukee and 8-1 at Tennessee in 2005 ... That ranks as the third-best winning percentage in the nation in 2005 ... Bruce Weber at Illinois posted the best winning percentage in 2005 with a 37-2 record (94.9 percent).

	Coach (Team)	2005 Record	Pct.
1.	Bruce Weber (Illinois)	37-2	.949
2.	Rick Pitino (Louisville)	34-4	.895
3.	**Bruce Pearl (Tennessee/UWM)**	**27-4**	**.871**
4.	Mike Krzyzewski (Duke)	31-5	.861
5.	Roy Williams (North Carolina)	29-5	.853
6.	Gregg Marshall (Winthrop)	25-5	.833
7.	Lorenzo Romar (Washington)	29-6	.829
8.	Billy Donovan (Florida)	28-6	.824
9.	Bob Thomason (Pacific)	28-6	.824
10.	Mark Fox (Nevada)	27-6	.818

Watson And Lofton Receive Preseason Accolades From SEC Coaches

Tennessee's backcourt combination of C.J. Watson and Chris Lofton were named to the second annual men's basketball preseason All-SEC first and second teams as announced by the Southeastern Conference office October 21 ... Watson, a senior point guard, earned first team honors while Lofton, a sophomore shooting guard, was named to the season team ... The preseason All-SEC first and second teams consist of a minimum of eight players on each squad and are voted on by the SEC men's basketball coaches.

Preseason Honors & Predictions

Team Predictions

SEC Media	5th/SEC East
Athlon Sports	5th/SEC East
Street & Smith's	5th/SEC East
Basketball Time In TN	5th/SEC East
Lindy's Basketball	4th/SEC East
Blue Ribbon	5th/SEC East
The Sporting News	5th/SEC East

Individual Predictions

C.J. Watson
- First Team All-SEC (SEC Coaches)
- First Team All-SEC (*Blue Ribbon*)
- Second Team All-SEC (SEC Media)
- Second Team All-SEC (*Athlon*)
- Second Team All-SEC (*Lindy's*)
- SEC Top Playmaker (*Lindy's*)

Chris Lofton
- First Team All-SEC (*Street & Smith's*)
- Second Team All-SEC (*SEC Coaches*)
- Second Team All-SEC (CBSSportsline.com)
- Third Team All-SEC (*Athlon*)
- Third Team All-SEC (*Lindy's*)
- SEC Most Underrated (*The Sporting News*)
- SEC Best Shooter (*The Sporting News*)
- SEC Best Shooter (*Street & Smith's*)
- SEC Top Shooter (*Lindy's*)

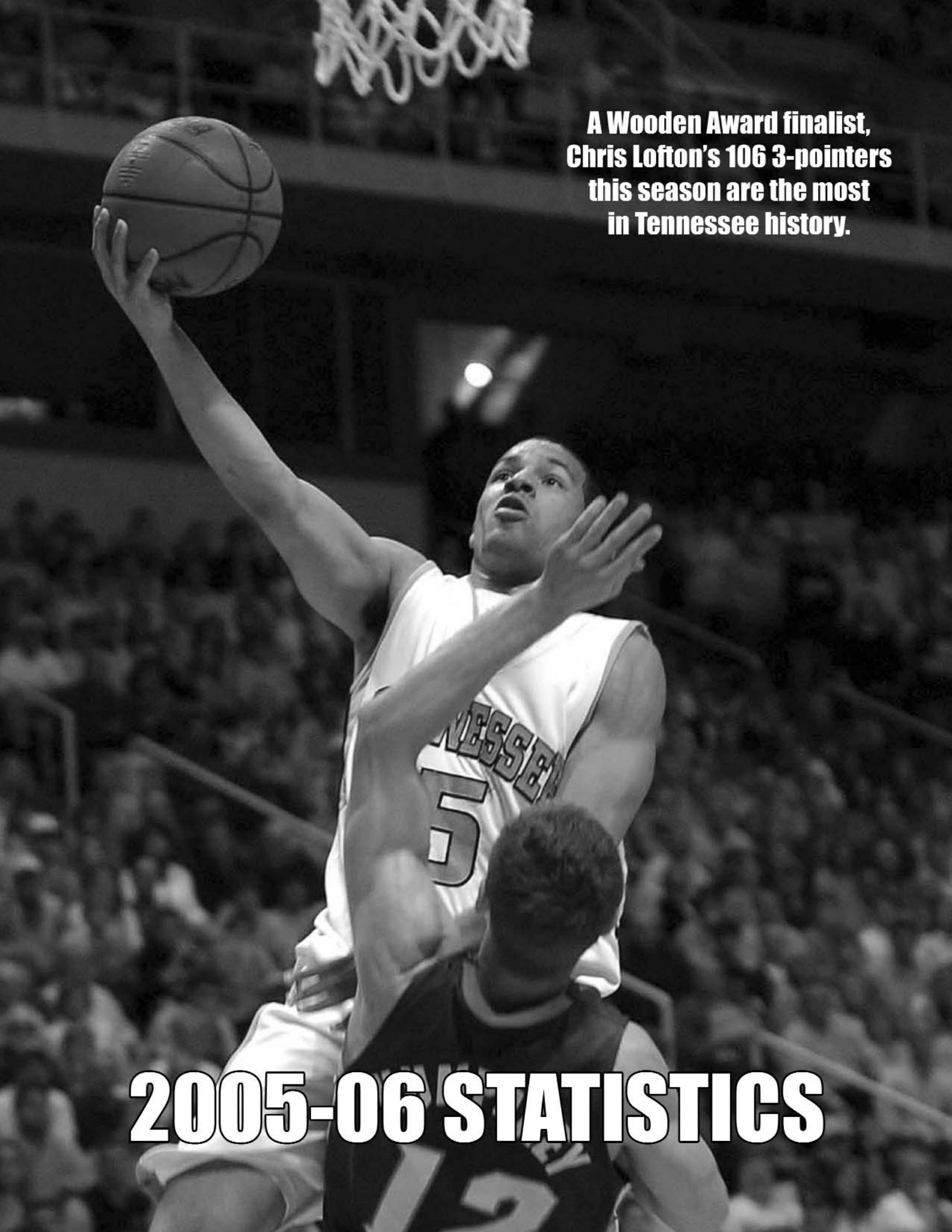
SEC Throwback Week

Each Southeastern Conference school designated a previous year's uniform to be worn as a part of "SEC Throwback Week" ... The week of February 18-26 (Saturday through Sunday) was designated as "SEC Throwback Week" ... Additionally, the uniforms were worn during the SEC Tournament in Nashville ... Tennessee took a poll of fans on UTsports.com to determine which era to choose their uniforms ... The fans selected the Ernie & Bernie era so UT's uniforms will resemble those worn in the 1970s.

Pearl's Start Ranks Second-Best All-Time

Bruce Pearl came to Tennessee as one of the winningest coaches in the nation, having won 79.1 percent (317-84) of his career games entering the season ... Pearl did not disappoint the UT faithful, winning his first six games as the leader of the Vols program ... Pearl's 6-0 record was the second-best start to a career amongst UT's all-time coaches:

	Coach (first season)	Start
1.	Jerry Green (1997-98)	10-0
2.	**Bruce Pearl (2005-06)**	**6-0**
3.	Ray Mears (1962-63)	5-0
	Emmett Lowery (1947-48)	5-0
	John Mauer (1938-39)	5-0



A Wooden Award finalist, Chris Lofton's 106 3-pointers this season are the most in Tennessee history.

2005-06 STATISTICS

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

2005-06 Results

Record:	Overall	Home	Away	Neutral
All Games	21-7	13-2	7-3	1-2
Conference	12-4	6-2	6-2	0-0
Non-Conference	9-3	7-0	1-1	1-2

Date	Time	Opponent	Score	Attend	High Points	High Rebounds	High Assists
Nov. 18	7:30 p.m.	East Tennessee State (FSN/SUN)	W, 106-83	21,280	24 Chris Lofton	12 Dane Bradshaw	6 Dane Bradshaw
							6 JaJuan Smith
Nov. 22	7:30 p.m.	Louisiana-Lafayette	W, 83-76	12,089	21 Andre Patterson	7 Chris Lofton	5 C.J. Watson
Nov. 25	7:30 p.m.	Eastern Kentucky	W, 92-58	13,686	18 Major Wingate	7 Dane Bradshaw	6 C.J. Watson
Nov. 30	8:00 p.m.	1-Murray State	W, 64-53	6,745	18 Chris Lofton	14 Andre Patterson	7 C.J. Watson
Dec. 6	7:00 p.m.	Appalachian State (CSS)	W, 89-81	12,876	23 C.J. Watson	10 Dane Bradshaw	6 Dane Bradshaw
Dec. 17	2:00 p.m.	at #6 Texas (ESPN)	W, 95-78	13,682	21 Chris Lofton	6 C.J. Watson	4 C.J. Watson
Dec. 22	6:00 p.m.	2-Oklahoma State (ESPN2)	L, 73-89	17,522	21 Chris Lofton	5 Stanley Asumnu	3 Dane Bradshaw
Dec. 27	7:30 p.m.	Alabama A&M	W, 93-68	15,797	19 Chris Lofton	14 Andre Patterson	6 Dane Bradshaw
Dec. 29	7:00 p.m.	Lipscomb (CSS)	W, 69-58	15,967	18 C.J. Watson	7 Major Wingate	4 Chris Lofton
Jan. 4	7:00 p.m.	South Alabama (FSN/SUN)	W, 87-69	11,248	17 Major Wingate	5 Major Wingate	8 Dane Bradshaw
						5 Dane Bradshaw	
Jan. 8	1:30 p.m.	*at South Carolina (JP)	W, 76-69	8,237	18 Chris Lofton	7 Dane Bradshaw	4 Dane Bradshaw
Jan. 11	7:30 p.m.	*Georgia	W, 89-76	21,612	20 C.J. Watson	9 C.J. Watson	8 Dane Bradshaw
Jan. 14	8:00 p.m.	*at LSU (FSN/SUN)	L, 74-88	9,733	18 C.J. Watson	6 Andre Patterson	3 Dane Bradshaw
							3 C.J. Watson
Jan. 18	8:00 p.m.	at #4 Memphis (CSTV)	L, 79-88	18,144	21 Dane Bradshaw	10 Dane Bradshaw	4 Dane Bradshaw
Jan. 21	7:00 p.m.	*#2 Florida (FSN/SUN)	W, 80-76	24,011	29 Chris Lofton	10 Andre Patterson	6 C.J. Watson
Jan. 25	8:00 p.m.	*at Mississippi State	W, 88-65	9,839	19 C.J. Watson	11 Andre Patterson	5 C.J. Watson
							5 Andre Patterson
Jan. 28	5:00 p.m.	*South Carolina (FSN/SUN)	W, 81-65	20,068	23 Chris Lofton	12 Andre Patterson	4 Stanley Asumnu
Feb. 1	7:30 p.m.	*Vanderbilt	W, 69-62	17,609	16 Major Wingate	12 Dane Bradshaw	5 C.J. Watson
Feb. 4	3:00 p.m.	*Mississippi (JP)	W, 86-72	18,602	18 C.J. Watson	7 JaJuan Smith	7 Dane Bradshaw
Feb. 7	7:00 p.m.	*at Kentucky (ESPN)	W, 75-67	24,184	31 Chris Lofton	10 Andre Patterson	4 C.J. Watson
							4 Jordan Howell
Feb. 11	4:00 p.m.	*at Georgia	W, 83-78	10,523	33 Chris Lofton	6 Chris Lofton	8 Dane Bradshaw
						6 Andre Patterson	
Feb. 15	7:30 p.m.	*Auburn	W, 105-89	17,814	25 Chris Lofton	7 Andre Patterson	8 C.J. Watson
Feb. 18	4:00 p.m.	*at Alabama (JP)	L, 79-92	15,194	22 Chris Lofton	7 Andre Patterson	2 C.J. Watson
							2 Stanley Asumnu
							2 Major Wingate
Feb. 22	8:00 p.m.	*at #12 Florida (JP)	W, 76-72	12,322	16 Chris Lofton	7 Andre Patterson	5 Dane Bradshaw
Feb. 25	1:00 p.m.	*Arkansas (JP)	L, 69-73	22,543	17 C.J. Watson	7 JaJuan Smith	5 JaJuan Smith
March 1	8:00 p.m.	*Kentucky (JP)	L, 78-80	24,108	15 Chris Lofton	8 Andre Patterson	5 C.J. Watson
					15 C.J. Watson		
					15 JaJuan Smith		
March 4	2:00 p.m.	*at Vanderbilt (JP)	W, 68-59	14,315	21 Chris Lofton	8 JaJuan Smith	3 C.J. Watson
							3 JaJuan Smith
March 10	1:00 p.m.	3-South Carolina (JP)	L, 71-79	19,547	23 C.J. Watson	9 Andre Patterson	4 Dane Bradshaw
March 16	TBA	4-Winthrop (CBS)					

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center
2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic
3-Southeastern Conference Tournament
4-NCAA Tournament
* Southeastern Conference Game
All Times Eastern and Subject To Change

2005-06 Tennessee Basketball
Tennessee Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 11, 2006)
All games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(21-7)	(13-2)	(7-3)	(1-2)
CONFERENCE.....	(12-4)	(6-2)	(6-2)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(9-3)	(7-0)	(1-1)	(1-2)

				TOTAL		3-PTS				REBOUNDS										
##	Player	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
05	Chris Lofton	28-28	892	31.9	162-338	.479	106-234	.453	55-60	.917	27	74	101	3.6	51	0	52	33	3	57	485	17.3
32	C.J. Watson	28-28	896	32.0	126-271	.465	46-107	.430	131-150	.873	16	77	93	3.3	69	2	114	59	3	58	429	15.3
01	Major Wingate	28-27	684	24.4	114-206	.553	1-5	.200	58-96	.604	49	59	108	3.9	76	1	30	64	24	11	287	10.3
02	JaJuan Smith	28-0	683	24.4	91-228	.399	57-153	.373	31-54	.574	26	55	81	2.9	52	0	54	39	3	39	270	9.6
22	Andre Patterson	28-14	702	25.1	107-227	.471	1-7	.143	54-84	.643	69	115	184	6.6	82	0	43	58	31	37	269	9.6
03	Stanley Asumnu	28-15	539	19.3	102-200	.510	1-8	.125	26-52	.500	33	49	82	2.9	35	0	43	35	8	23	231	8.3
23	Dane Bradshaw	28-28	763	27.3	75-177	.424	20-70	.286	36-61	.590	43	112	155	5.5	76	0	111	41	10	51	206	7.4
44	Jonah Cox	1-0	2	2.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	2-2	1.000	1	0	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	2.0
15	Jordan Howell	28-0	212	7.6	19-47	.404	15-37	.405	3-4	.750	1	8	9	0.3	26	0	17	10	0	3	56	2.0
34	Ryan Childress	28-0	169	6.0	9-26	.346	2-9	.222	16-23	.696	18	18	36	1.3	33	1	15	12	2	4	36	1.3
11	Eddie DeBro	11-0	33	3.0	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1	7	8	0.7	4	0	3	2	0	1	4	0.4
30	Ben Bosse	6-0	11	1.8	1-4	.250	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.3
21	Jordan Smith	4-0	4	1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.5	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0.0
12	Justin Jackson	4-0	5	1.3	0-2	.000	0-0	.000	0-2	.000	2	1	3	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
24	Tanner Wild	3-0	5	1.7	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	TEAM										37	32	69	2.5	3			6				
	Total	28	5600		808-1732	.467	249-633	.393	412-588	.701	323	611	934	33.4	507	4	482	363	85	286	2277	81.3
	Opponents	28	5600		755-1601	.472	193-534	.361	360-528	.682	315	704	1019	36.4	519	11	452	517	114	175	2063	73.7

TEAM STATISTICS	UT	OPP
SCORING	2277	2063
Points per game	81.3	73.7
Scoring margin	+7.6	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT	808-1732	755-1601
Field goal pct	.467	.472
3 POINT FG-ATT	249-633	193-534
3-point FG pct	.393	.361
3-pt FG made per game	8.9	6.9
FREE THROWS-ATT	412-588	360-528
Free throw pct	.701	.682
REBOUNDS	934	1019
Rebounds per game	33.4	36.4
Rebounding margin	-3.0	-
ASSISTS	482	452
Assists per game	17.2	16.1
TURNOVERS	363	517
Turnovers per game	13.0	18.5
Turnover margin	+5.5	-
Assist/turnover ratio	1.3	0.9
STEALS	286	175
Steals per game	10.2	6.3
BLOCKS	85	114
Blocks per game	3.0	4.1
WINNING STREAK	0	-
Home win streak	0	-
ATTENDANCE	269310	160441
Home games-Avg/Game	15-17954	10-13617
Neutral site-Avg/Game	-	3-8089

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd		Total
Tennessee	1053	1224	-	2277
Opponents	950	1113	-	2063

DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND
11/18/05	EAST TENNESSEE STATE	W	106-83	21280
11/22/05	LOUISIANA-LAFAYETTE	W	83-76	12089
11/25/05	EASTERN KENTUCKY	W	92-58	13686
11/30/05	vs Murray State	W	64-53	6745
12/06/05	APPALACHIAN STATE	W	89-81	12876
12/17/05	at Texas	W	95-78	13682
12/22/05	vs Oklahoma State	L	73-89	17522
12/27/05	ALABAMA A&M	W	93-68	15797
12/29/05	LIPSCOMB	W	69-58	15967
01/04/06	SOUTH ALABAMA	W	87-69	11248
*01/08/06	at South Carolina	W	76-69	8237
*01/11/06	GEORGIA	W	89-76	21612
*01/14/06	at LSU	L	74-88	9733
01/18/06	at Memphis	L	79-88	18144
*01/21/06	FLORIDA	W	80-76	24011
*01/25/06	at Mississippi State	W	88-65	9839
*01/28/06	SOUTH CAROLINA	W	81-65	20068
*02/01/06	VANDERBILT	W	69-62	17609
*02/04/06	MISSISSIPPI	W	86-72	18602
*02/07/06	at Kentucky	W	75-67	24184
*02/11/06	at Georgia	W	83-78	10523
*02/15/06	AUBURN	W	105-89	17814
*02/18/06	at Alabama	L	79-92	15194
*02/22/06	at Florida	W	76-72	12322
*02/25/06	ARKANSAS	L	69-73	22543
*03/01/06	KENTUCKY	L	78-80	24108
*03/04/06	at Vanderbilt	W	68-59	14316
03/10/06	vs South Carolina	L	71-79	-

* = Conference game

2005-06 Tennessee Basketball
Tennessee Combined Team Statistics (as of Mar 04, 2006)
Conference games

RECORD:	OVERALL	HOME	AWAY	NEUTRAL
ALL GAMES.....	(12-4)	(6-2)	(6-2)	(0-0)
CONFERENCE.....	(12-4)	(6-2)	(6-2)	(0-0)
NON-CONFERENCE.....	(0-0)	(0-0)	(0-0)	(0-0)

				TOTAL		3-PTS				REBOUNDS										
##	Player	GP-GS	Min--Avg	FG-FGA	Pct	3FG-FGA	Pct	FT-FTA	Pct	Off	Def	Tot	Avg	PF	FO	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
05	Chris Lofton.....	16-16	518 32.4	95-191	.497	61-130	.469	39-40	.975	14	44	58	3.6	29	0	25	17	1	27	290	18.1
32	C.J. Watson.....	16-16	526 32.9	71-163	.436	22-57	.386	64-72	.889	14	47	61	3.8	35	1	67	32	2	31	228	14.3
02	JaJuan Smith.....	16-0	403 25.2	59-142	.415	36-95	.379	27-45	.600	19	33	52	3.3	27	0	27	21	1	22	181	11.3
22	Andre Patterson....	16-12	441 27.6	66-147	.449	0-6	.000	24-39	.615	39	72	111	6.9	45	0	29	35	22	23	156	9.8
01	Major Wingate.....	16-16	381 23.8	59-101	.584	0-1	.000	29-52	.558	29	29	58	3.6	50	0	16	38	6	4	147	9.2
23	Dane Bradshaw.....	16-16	442 27.6	44-100	.440	12-41	.293	18-38	.474	23	59	82	5.1	45	0	60	24	4	24	118	7.4
03	Stanley Asumnu.....	16-4	277 17.3	51-99	.515	0-1	.000	12-22	.545	19	26	45	2.8	18	0	20	17	3	16	114	7.1
15	Jordan Howell.....	16-0	116 7.3	9-26	.346	8-21	.381	3-4	.750	1	2	3	0.2	17	0	11	7	0	1	29	1.8
34	Ryan Childress.....	16-0	79 4.9	3-13	.231	2-7	.286	5-6	.833	8	8	16	1.0	13	0	7	4	0	3	13	0.8
24	Tanner Wild.....	1-0	2 2.0	0-1	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	1	1	1.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
30	Ben Bosse.....	3-0	5 1.7	0-2	.000	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0.0
21	Jordan Smith.....	1-0	1 1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
11	Eddie DeBro.....	5-0	8 1.6	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	2	2	0.4	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.0
12	Justin Jackson.....	1-0	1 1.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0
	TEAM.....									23	18	41	2.6	1			4				
	Total.....	16	3200	457-986	.463	141-361	.391	221-318	.695	189	341	530	33.1	281	1	262	200	39	152	1276	79.8
	Opponents.....	16	3200	440-916	.480	104-306	.340	199-287	.693	181	396	577	36.1	289	5	255	273	79	101	1183	73.9

TEAM STATISTICS	UT	OPP
SCORING.....	1276	1183
Points per game.....	79.8	73.9
Scoring margin.....	+5.8	-
FIELD GOALS-ATT.....	457-986	440-916
Field goal pct.....	.463	.480
3 POINT FG-ATT.....	141-361	104-306
3-point FG pct.....	.391	.340
3-pt FG made per game..	8.8	6.5
FREE THROWS-ATT.....	221-318	199-287
Free throw pct.....	.695	.693
REBOUNDS.....	530	577
Rebounds per game.....	33.1	36.1
Rebounding margin.....	-2.9	-
ASSISTS.....	262	255
Assists per game.....	16.4	15.9
TURNOVERS.....	200	273
Turnovers per game.....	12.5	17.1
Turnover margin.....	+4.6	-
Assist/turnover ratio..	1.3	0.9
STEALS.....	152	101
Steals per game.....	9.5	6.3
BLOCKS.....	39	79
Blocks per game.....	2.4	4.9
WINNING STREAK.....	1	-
Home win streak.....	0	-
ATTENDANCE.....	166367	104348
Home games-Avg/Game....	8-20796	8-13044
Neutral site-Avg/Game..	-	0-0

SCORE BY PERIODS:	1st	2nd		Total
Tennessee.....	580	696	-	1276
Opponents.....	552	631	-	1183

DATE	OPPONENT	W/L	SCORE	ATTEND
*01/08/06	at South Carolina	W	76-69	8237
*01/11/06	GEORGIA	W	89-76	21612
*01/14/06	at LSU	L	74-88	9733
*01/21/06	FLORIDA	W	80-76	24011
*01/25/06	at Mississippi State	W	88-65	9839
*01/28/06	SOUTH CAROLINA	W	81-65	20068
*02/01/06	VANDERBILT	W	69-62	17609
*02/04/06	MISSISSIPPI	W	86-72	18602
*02/07/06	at Kentucky	W	75-67	24184
*02/11/06	at Georgia	W	83-78	10523
*02/15/06	AUBURN	W	105-89	17814
*02/18/06	at Alabama	L	79-92	15194
*02/22/06	at Florida	W	76-72	12322
*02/25/06	ARKANSAS	L	69-73	22543
*03/01/06	KENTUCKY	L	78-80	24108
*03/04/06	at Vanderbilt	W	68-59	14316

* = Conference game

Tennessee Individual Game Highs

Points	33	Chris Lofton at Georgia (02/11/06)
Field Goals Made	11	Chris Lofton at Kentucky (02/07/06)
Field Goal Attempts	19	Chris Lofton vs Florida (01/21/06)
Field Goal % (min 5 made)	.857 (6-7)	JaJuan Smith vs Kentucky (03/01/06)
3 PT FG Made	9	Chris Lofton at Georgia (02/11/06)
3 PT FG Attempts	13	Chris Lofton vs Florida (01/21/06)
3 PT FG % (min 3 made)	1.000 (3-3)	C.J. Watson vs Mississippi (02/04/06)
Free Throws Made	13	C.J. Watson vs Lipscomb (12/29/05)
Free Throw Attempts	14	C.J. Watson vs Lipscomb (12/29/05)
Free Throw % (min 5 made)	1.000 (7-7)	C.J. Watson vs East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
	1.000 (6-6)	C.J. Watson at Vanderbilt (03/04/06)
	1.000 (6-6)	C.J. Watson at Texas (12/17/05)
	1.000 (6-6)	Andre Patterson at Texas (12/17/05)
	1.000 (6-6)	Major Wingate vs Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05)
	1.000 (5-5)	C.J. Watson at Alabama (02/18/06)
	1.000 (5-5)	Chris Lofton vs South Carolina (01/28/06)
Rebounds	14	Andre Patterson vs Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
	14	Andre Patterson vs Murray State (11/30/05)
Assists	8	C.J. Watson vs Auburn (02/15/06)
	8	Dane Bradshaw at Georgia (02/11/06)
	8	Dane Bradshaw vs Georgia (01/11/06)
	8	Dane Bradshaw vs South Alabama (01/04/06)
Steals	5	Andre Patterson at Vanderbilt (03/04/06)
	5	Chris Lofton vs South Carolina (01/28/06)
	5	Dane Bradshaw at Memphis (01/18/06)
	5	C.J. Watson vs Georgia (01/11/06)
	5	Chris Lofton vs Oklahoma State (12/22/05)
	5	Dane Bradshaw vs Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05)
Blocked Shots	4	Patterson, Andre at Vanderbilt (03/04/06)
	4	Major Wingate vs South Alabama (01/04/06)

Tennessee Team Game Highs

Points	106	vs East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Field Goals Made	36	vs Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
Field Goal Attempts	77	at Memphis (01/18/06)
Field Goal %	.565 (35-62)	vs Auburn (02/15/06)
	.565 (35-62)	vs South Alabama (01/04/06)
3 PT FG Made	16	vs Auburn (02/15/06)
3 PT FG Attempts	29	vs South Carolina (03/10/06)
	29	vs Auburn (02/15/06)
3 PT FG %	.667 (12-18)	at South Carolina (01/08/06)
Free Throws Made	25	at Texas (12/17/05)
	25	vs Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Free Throw Attempts	41	vs Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Free Throw %	.938 (15-16)	at Vanderbilt (03/04/06)
Rebounds	48	vs Murray State (11/30/05)
Assists	29	vs South Alabama (01/04/06)
Steals	15	vs East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Blocked Shots	8	vs Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Turnovers	23	at Georgia (02/11/06)
	23	vs East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Fouls	26	at Texas (12/17/05)

Tennessee Team Game Lows

Points	64	vs Murray State (11/30/05)
Field Goals Made	21	vs Lipscomb (12/29/05)
	21	vs Vanderbilt (02/01/06)
Field Goal Attempts	49	at Georgia (02/11/06)
Field Goal %	.351 (27-77)	at Memphis (01/18/06)
3 PT FG Made	4	vs Vanderbilt (02/01/06)
3 PT FG Attempts	17	vs Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
3 PT FG %	.222 (4-18)	vs Vanderbilt (02/01/06)
Free Throws Made	5	vs Kentucky (03/01/06)
	5	at Florida (02/22/06)
Free Throw Attempts	7	at Florida (02/22/06)
Free Throw %	.455 (10-22)	at South Carolina (01/08/06)
Rebounds	24	vs Arkansas (02/25/06)
Assists	10	at Alabama (02/18/06)
Steals	6	vs Vanderbilt (02/01/06)
	6	at Georgia (02/11/06)
Blocked Shots	1	at Texas (12/17/05)
	1	at South Carolina (01/08/06)
	1	at Mississippi State (01/25/06)
	1	vs Auburn (02/15/06)
	1	at Alabama (02/18/06)
Turnovers	6	at South Carolina (01/08/06)
	6	vs Arkansas (02/25/06)
Fouls	9	vs South Carolina (01/28/06)

Opponent Individual Game Highs

Points	29	Clarence Sanders vs Mississippi (02/04/06)
Field Goals Made	11	Joe Martin vs Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
	11	Tim Smith vs East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Field Goal Attempts	22	Tim Smith vs East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Field Goal % (min 5 made)	1.000 (7-7)	Chris Richard at Florida (02/22/06)
	1.000 (7-7)	Tyrus Thomas at LSU (01/14/06)
	1.000 (6-6)	Tarence Kinsey at South Carolina (01/08/06)
3 PT FG Made	7	Clarence Sanders vs Mississippi (02/04/06)
3 PT FG Attempts	12	Rodney Carney at Memphis (01/18/06)
3 PT FG % (min 3 made)	1.000 (5-5)	McLaughlin-Williams vs Appalachian State (12/06/05)
	1.000 (4-4)	Tarence Kinsey at South Carolina (01/08/06)
Free Throws Made	12	Darius Washington at Memphis (01/18/06)
Free Throw Attempts	14	Darius Washington at Memphis (01/18/06)
Free Throw % (min 5 made)	1.000 (9-9)	Ronald Steele at Alabama (02/18/06)
	1.000 (7-7)	Charles Rhodes at Mississippi State (01/25/06)
	1.000 (5-5)	Jermareo Davidson at Alabama (02/18/06)
	1.000 (5-5)	Rocky Trice at South Carolina (01/08/06)
Rebounds	20	Dwayne Mitchell vs Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Assists	9	Ronnie Brewer vs Arkansas (02/25/06)
	9	Ronald Steele at Alabama (02/18/06)
Steals	5	Joakim Noah at Florida (02/22/06)
Blocked Shots	9	Tyrus Thomas at LSU (01/14/06)

Opponent Team Game Highs

Points	92	at Alabama (02/18/06)
Field Goals Made	34	vs Oklahoma State (12/22/05)
Field Goal Attempts	67	at Georgia (02/11/06)
	67	at Memphis (01/18/06)
Field Goal %	.646 (31-48)	at LSU (01/14/06)
3 PT FG Made	12	vs Auburn (02/15/06)
3 PT FG Attempts	30	vs South Carolina (01/28/06)
3 PT FG %	.632 (12-19)	vs Auburn (02/15/06)
Free Throws Made	28	at Alabama (02/18/06)
Free Throw Attempts	32	at LSU (01/14/06)
Free Throw %	1.000 (11-11)	vs Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
Rebounds	50	vs Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Assists	24	vs Arkansas (02/25/06)
Steals	12	vs South Carolina (03/10/06)
	12	at Florida (02/22/06)
Blocked Shots	13	at LSU (01/14/06)
Turnovers	33	vs East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Fouls	30	vs Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)

Opponent Team Game Lows

Points	53	vs Murray State (11/30/05)
Field Goals Made	19	at Vanderbilt (03/04/06)
Field Goal Attempts	47	at South Carolina (01/08/06)
Field Goal %	.328 (19-58)	at Vanderbilt (03/04/06)
3 PT FG Made	1	at LSU (01/14/06)
3 PT FG Attempts	4	at LSU (01/14/06)
3 PT FG %	.185 (5-27)	at Mississippi State (01/25/06)
Free Throws Made	2	vs South Carolina (01/28/06)
	2	vs Vanderbilt (02/01/06)
Free Throw Attempts	4	vs South Carolina (01/28/06)
Free Throw %	.375 (3-8)	vs Murray State (11/30/05)
Rebounds	25	at Georgia (02/11/06)
Assists	9	at Mississippi State (01/25/06)
Steals	1	vs Arkansas (02/25/06)
Blocked Shots	0	vs East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
	0	vs Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Turnovers	10	vs Arkansas (02/25/06)
Fouls	10	at Florida (02/22/06)

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

Team Game-By-Game Stats

	Date	Result	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Rebounds O-D-Total	PF	Pts	A	TO	Blk	Stl	Min	Half
East Tennessee State			32-60	.533	7-20	.350	12-25	.480	8-26-34	25	83	18	33	0	8	200	31
at Tennessee	Nov. 18	W, 106-83	35-65	.538	12-28	.429	24-35	.686	11-27-38	22	106	25	23	2	15	200	46
Louisiana-Lafayette			26-62	.419	9-25	.360	15-29	.517	18-32-50	30	76	16	20	0	8	200	25
at Tennessee	Nov. 22	W, 83-76	25-54	.463	8-17	.471	25-41	.610	7-25-32	22	83	15	12	8	9	200	43
Eastern Kentucky			23-52	.442	6-14	.429	6-12	.500	9-20-29	16	58	17	25	1	7	200	29
at Tennessee	Nov. 25	W, 92-58	34-62	.548	9-21	.429	15-19	.789	10-22-32	15	92	21	13	3	14	200	44
vs. Murray State			21-56	.375	8-23	.348	3-8	.375	12-26-38	13	53	15	17	7	5	200	32
Tennessee	Nov. 30	W, 64-53	25-70	.357	6-20	.300	8-13	.615	22-26-48	11	64	13	9	3	9	200	26
Appalachian State			28-58	.483	11-24	.458	14-17	.824	9-22-31	18	81	19	19	2	3	200	46
at Tennessee	Dec. 6	W, 89-81	33-61	.541	11-21	.524	12-19	.632	11-22-33	18	89	21	16	4	10	200	48
at Texas			25-52	.481	10-22	.455	18-28	.643	15-22-37	26	78	10	22	4	4	200	28
Tennessee	Dec. 17	W, 95-78	29-58	.500	12-24	.500	25-28	.893	10-15-25	26	95	16	10	1	11	200	48
vs. Oklahoma State			34-54	.630	4-10	.400	17-25	.680	7-31-38	15	89	20	21	2	11	200	42
Tennessee	Dec. 22	L, 73-89	26-61	.426	9-26	.346	12-17	.706	7-18-25	24	73	12	16	3	12	200	26
Alabama A&M			24-62	.387	9-19	.474	11-11	1.000	11-21-32	16	68	19	17	2	2	200	32
at Tennessee	Dec. 27	W, 93-68	36-65	.554	9-21	.429	12-15	.800	10-27-37	16	93	28	9	7	10	200	45
Lipscomb			20-56	.357	7-19	.368	11-14	.786	11-32-43	25	58	12	21	2	4	200	26
at Tennessee	Dec. 29	W, 69-58	21-55	.382	5-20	.250	22-31	.710	7-26-33	12	69	13	11	5	12	200	27
South Alabama			25-55	.455	7-15	.467	12-16	.750	9-24-33	11	69	13	14	1	3	200	33
at Tennessee	Jan. 4	W, 87-69	35-62	.565	9-20	.450	8-12	.667	5-22-27	15	87	29	8	5	10	200	48
at South Carolina			24-47	.511	8-20	.400	13-17	.765	6-25-31	17	69	12	12	4	5	200	35
Tennessee	Jan. 8	W, 76-69	27-57	.474	12-18	.667	10-22	.455	11-19-30	20	76	11	6	1	7	200	23
Georgia			28-57	.491	7-19	.368	13-23	.565	11-26-37	23	76	12	22	4	6	200	36
at Tennessee	Jan. 11	W, 89-76	31-61	.508	7-19	.368	20-28	.714	9-24-33	19	89	20	13	3	13	200	40
at LSU			31-48	.646	1-4	.250	25-32	.781	7-36-43	19	88	15	25	13	10	200	30
Tennessee	Jan. 14	L, 74-88	30-75	.400	6-22	.273	8-14	.571	12-13-25	24	74	11	11	3	11	200	27
at Memphis			29-67	.433	8-27	.296	22-29	.759	15-34-49	21	88	17	19	10	7	200	41
Tennessee	Jan. 18	L, 79-88	27-77	.351	7-25	.280	18-26	.692	19-25-44	23	79	15	15	2	13	200	45
Florida			30-57	.526	6-19	.316	10-16	.625	8-27-35	22	76	19	19	7	7	200	42
at Tennessee	Jan. 21	W, 80-76	28-66	.424	7-22	.318	17-23	.739	15-25-40	19	80	17	13	2	9	200	36
at Mississippi State			21-64	.328	5-27	.185	18-30	.600	20-22-42	16	65	9	17	5	6	200	29
Tennessee	Jan. 25	W, 88-65	33-63	.524	9-23	.391	13-17	.765	10-30-40	25	88	17	15	1	12	200	44
South Carolina			27-63	.429	9-30	.300	2-4	.500	12-18-30	18	65	20	11	8	4	200	28
at Tennessee	Jan. 28	W, 81-65	30-62	.484	6-23	.261	15-21	.714	18-25-43	9	81	18	11	5	8	200	33
Vanderbilt			28-59	.475	4-20	.200	2-5	.400	12-31-43	23	62	19	16	2	5	200	33
at Tennessee	Feb. 1	W, 69-62	21-58	.362	4-18	.222	23-32	.719	12-21-33	12	69	17	8	2	6	200	27
Mississippi			26-54	.481	11-20	.550	9-17	.529	11-26-37	20	72	17	22	6	6	200	27
at Tennessee	Feb. 4	W, 86-72	33-67	.493	7-19	.368	13-20	.650	12-21-33	17	86	25	12	2	12	200	46
at Kentucky			28-62	.452	4-16	.250	7-15	.467	13-23-36	16	67	13	15	2	7	200	36
Tennessee	Feb. 7	W, 75-67	27-61	.443	10-26	.385	11-17	.647	13-25-38	16	75	16	12	3	8	200	39
at Georgia			31-67	.463	7-21	.333	9-14	.643	10-15-25	20	78	11	13	3	11	200	29
Tennessee	Feb. 11	W, 83-78	26-49	.531	10-24	.417	21-27	.778	10-27-37	18	83	17	23	2	6	200	38
Auburn			32-57	.561	12-19	.632	13-14	.929	11-19-30	19	89	22	21	2	4	200	25
at Tennessee	Feb. 15	W, 105-89	35-62	.565	16-29	.552	19-24	.792	11-14-25	12	105	22	9	1	12	200	42
at Alabama			29-54	.537	6-19	.316	28-30	.933	10-30-40	14	92	16	19	4	8	200	57
Tennessee	Feb. 18	L, 79-92	29-70	.414	10-23	.435	11-19	.579	15-16-31	24	79	10	14	1	12	200	41
at Florida			27-58	.466	3-13	.231	15-22	.682	13-23-36	10	72	15	16	8	12	200	40
Tennessee	Feb. 22	W, 76-72	30-60	.500	11-21	.524	5-7	.714	9-22-31	19	76	15	19	3	9	200	36
Arkansas			30-63	.476	4-14	.286	9-12	.750	16-29-45	19	73	24	10	5	1	200	36
at Tennessee	Feb. 25	L, 69-73	23-53	.434	8-22	.364	15-21	.714	5-19-24	16	69	16	6	3	8	200	42
Kentucky			29-48	.604	9-19	.474	13-19	.684	7-26-33	17	80	19	19	3	6	200	38
at Tennessee	March 1	L, 78-80	31-63	.492	11-24	.458	5-10	.500	11-14-25	16	78	19	13	2	8	200	45
at Vanderbilt			19-58	.328	8-26	.308	13-17	.765	13-20-34	16	59	12	16	3	3	200	31
Tennessee	March 4	W, 68-59	23-59	.390	7-28	.250	15-16	.938	16-26-42	15	68	11	15	5	11	200	21
vs. South Carolina			28-51	.549	3-10	.300	20-27	.741	10-18-28	14	79	21	16	4	12	200	33
Tennessee	March 10	L, 71-79	25-56	.446	11-29	.379	10-14	.714	15-15-30	22	71	12	21	3	9	200	27
vs. Winthrop																	
Tennessee	March 16																

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

Individual Points-Rebounds-Assists

	Stanley Asumnu	Dane Bradshaw	Ryan Childress	Damion Harris	Jordan Howell	Chris Lofton	Andre Patterson	JaJuan Smith	C.J. Watson	Major Wingate
East Tennessee State	18-5-2	13-12-6	5-4-0	DNP	0-0-0	24-4-4	7-3-0	6-4-6	22-2-5	11-2-2
Louisiana-Lafayette	11-1-1	7-6-3	0-0-0	DNP	0-1-0	12-7-2	21-6-2	3-3-2	17-2-5	12-3-0
Eastern Kentucky	6-2-5	7-7-3	5-3-2	DNP	5-0-0	17-2-1	10-4-0	8-4-2	12-1-6	18-5-1
vs. Murray State	7-6-0	5-4-2	0-1-1	DNP	0-1-1	18-2-1	11-14-0	2-6-1	11-3-7	10-5-0
Appalachian State	12-2-3	4-10-6	0-1-1	DNP	3-1-0	15-4-3	11-3-0	9-2-2	23-4-5	12-3-1
at Texas	7-5-2	7-5-3	4-2-1	DNP	3-0-0	21-2-0	12-2-1	12-2-3	17-6-4	12-1-2
vs. Oklahoma State	6-5-2	2-4-3	0-3-1	DNP	8-0-2	21-1-1	10-4-1	6-1-0	12-1-1	8-4-1
Alabama A&M	15-2-3	0-1-6	6-2-2	DNP	2-0-1	19-4-4	9-14-3	16-1-5	16-3-4	8-4-0
Lipscomb	11-3-1	6-6-3	2-0-0	DNP	0-1-1	6-3-4	5-6-2	8-1-1	18-5-1	13-7-0
South Alabama	6-0-1	6-5-8	1-3-0	DNP	6-1-1	14-3-4	9-1-1	10-0-3	16-3-5	17-5-4
at South Carolina	2-2-0	14-7-4	0-1-1	DNP	3-0-0	18-5-0	2-1-1	13-3-2	17-2-3	7-3-0
Georgia	9-3-2	3-8-8	0-0-0	DNP	0-0-0	16-2-1	11-3-1	16-1-1	20-9-6	14-6-1
at LSU	13-4-0	9-3-3	0-1-0	DNP	0-1-1	2-0-2	10-6-1	9-2-1	18-3-3	13-3-0
at Memphis	11-5-3	21-10-4	0-1-0	DNP	0-0-0	16-7-1	6-7-2	0-2-3	14-1-2	11-6-3
Florida	1-1-0	8-7-4	3-3-0	DNP	4-1-1	29-6-3	12-10-3	10-6-0	6-2-6	7-2-0
at Mississippi State	12-4-1	7-7-3	5-2-2	DNP	5-0-0	8-2-1	13-11-5	11-3-0	19-4-5	8-4-0
South Carolina	10-4-4	7-6-3	0-0-0	DNP	2-0-1	23-5-3	13-12-0	9-4-3	11-5-3	6-5-1
Vanderbilt	7-2-3	10-12-3	0-0-1	DNP	0-0-0	7-3-2	8-11-0	10-0-0	11-1-5	16-3-3
Mississippi	14-2-0	4-3-7	2-3-0	DNP	3-0-2	12-4-4	6-4-1	17-7-2	18-4-6	10-5-3
at Kentucky	5-2-1	2-7-2	3-1-1	DNP	0-0-4	31-7-0	4-10-1	8-3-3	10-5-4	12-1-0
at Georgia	2-4-0	9-4-8	0-0-0	DNP	0-0-0	33-6-3	15-6-3	10-4-1	11-5-2	3-5-0
Auburn	10-2-3	6-4-4	0-1-0	DNP	0-0-1	25-1-0	15-7-2	19-2-1	18-3-8	12-5-3
at Alabama	8-3-2	5-2-1	0-2-0	DNP	0-0-0	22-4-1	15-7-1	11-1-1	13-2-2	5-5-2
at Florida	4-2-0	15-4-5	0-0-1	DNP	0-1-1	16-5-1	8-7-2	9-0-3	13-6-3	11-0-0
Arkansas	7-2-1	6-1-0	0-1-0	DNP	3-0-0	12-2-2	10-4-3	11-7-5	17-4-3	3-1-2
Kentucky	6-2-1	7-5-4	0-0-1	DNP	6-0-1	15-1-2	4-8-3	15-1-1	15-1-5	10-4-1
at Vanderbilt	4-6-2	6-2-1	0-1-0	DNP	3-0-0	21-5-0	10-4-2	3-8-3	11-5-3	10-6-0
vs. South Carolina	7-1-0	10-3-4	0-0-0	DNP	0-1-0	12-4-2	2-9-2	9-3-2	23-1-2	8-5-0
vs. Winthrop										

Attendance Summary

	Games	Totals	Average
Home	15	269,310	17,954
Away	10	135,174	13,618
Neutral	3	43,814	14,605
Total	28	448,298	16,010

Tennessee's Record When...

Leading at halftime 15-3
Trailing at halftime 6-4
Tied at the halftime 0-0

Leading with 10:00 remaining 15-1
Trailing with 10:00 remaining 5-6
Tied with 10:00 remaining 1-0

Leading with 5:00 remaining 17-1
Trailing with 5:00 remaining 4-6
Tied with 5:00 remaining 0-0

In Overtime 0-0

Tennessee outrebounds opponent 10-1
Tennessee is outrebounded 11-6
Same amount of rebounds 0-0

Tennessee commits more turnovers 2-1
Opponent commits more turnovers 18-6
Same amount of turnovers 1-0

Tennessee shoots 50 percent or better 11-0
Opponent shoots 50 percent or better 4-5

Tennessee shoots less than 50 percent 10-7
Opponent shoots less than 50 percent 17-2

Tennessee shoots better than opponent 16-0
Opponent shoots better than Tennessee 5-7
Same shooting percentage 0-0

Tennessee has more free throw attempts 16-1
Opponent has more free throw attempts 4-6
Same amount of free throw attempts 1-0

Tennessee bench outscores opponent bench 14-2
Opponent bench outscores Tennessee bench 7-5
Benches score the same 0-0

Tennessee less than 50 0-0
Tennessee scores between 50-59 0-0
Tennessee scores between 60-69 4-1
Tennessee scores between 70-79 3-6
Tennessee scores between 80-89 9-0
Tennessee scores between 90-99 3-0
Tennessee scores 100 or more 2-0

Opponent less than 50 0-0
Opponent scores between 50-59 4-0
Opponent scores between 60-69 7-0
Opponent scores between 70-79 7-2
Opponent scores between 80-89 3-4
Opponent scores between 90-99 0-1
Opponent scores 100 or more 0-0

In November 4-0
In December 4-1
In January 6-2
In February 6-2
In March 1-2

On Monday 0-0
On Tuesday 4-0
On Wednesday 7-2
On Thursday 1-1
On Friday 2-1
On Saturday 6-3
On Sunday 1-0

Miscellaneous Stats

Starting Lineups

W-L	
11-3	G-Watson, G-Lofton, F-Asumnu, F-Bradshaw, C-Wingate
9-4	G-Watson, G-Lofton, F-Patterson, F-Bradshaw, C-Wingate
1-0	G-Watson, G-Lofton, F-Asumnu, F-Bradshaw, C-Patterson

Margin of Victory/Defeat

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-15	16-19	20-24	25+
Wins	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	2	1	-	4	4	2	2
Losses	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	-

Most First Half Points

Tennessee	48 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
	48 at Texas (12/17/05)
	48 vs. Appalachian State (12/5/05)
Opponents	57 by Alabama (2/18/06)

Fewest First Half Points

Tennessee	21 at Vanderbilt (3/4/06)
Opponents	25 by Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)

Most Second Half Points

Tennessee	63 vs. Auburn (2/15/06)
Opponents	64 vs. Auburn (2/15/06)

Fewest Second Half Points

Tennessee	27 vs. Arkansas (2/25/06)
Opponents	21 by Murray State (11/30/05)

Largest Halftime Lead

Tennessee	20 at Texas (12/17/05)
Opponents	16 by Alabama (2/18/06)
	16 by Oklahoma State (12/22/05)

Jump Balls Controlled

Tennessee	19
Opponents	9

How UT Scored First Points

Dunk	4
Free Throw	1
Jump Shot	10
Lay-up	8
3-Pointer	4
Tip-In	1

Scored UT's First Points

Major Wingate	9
Stanley Asumnu	5
Chris Lofton	4
C.J. Watson	4
Dane Bradshaw	4
Andre Patterson	2

First Off UT Bench*

JaJuan Smith	27
Andre Patterson	10
Major Wingate	1

** includes multiple substitutions*

Scoring Leader*

	Season	Career
Dane Bradshaw	1	1
Chris Lofton	15	26
Andre Patterson	1	1
JaJuan Smith	1	1
C.J. Watson	9	23
Major Wingate	3	3

Rebounds Leader*

	Season	Career
Stanley Asumnu	1	1
Dane Bradshaw	7	7
Chris Lofton	2	3
Andre Patterson	13	26
JaJuan Smith	3	3
C.J. Watson	2	12
Major Wingate	2	3

Assists Leader*

	Season	Career
Stanley Asumnu	2	2
Dane Bradshaw	13	18
Jordan Howell	1	2
Chris Lofton	1	4
Andre Patterson	1	4
JaJuan Smith	2	3
C.J. Watson	13	89
Major Wingate	1	2

Steals Leader*

	Season	Career
Stanley Asumnu	4	18
Dane Bradshaw	8	18
Chris Lofton	10	20
Andre Patterson	6	11
JaJuan Smith	5	5
C.J. Watson	12	58
Major Wingate	0	6

Blocks Leader*

	Season	Career
Stanley Asumnu	3	5
Dane Bradshaw	4	7
Ryan Childress	1	1
Eddie DeBro	0	1
Chris Lofton	1	1
Andre Patterson	18	32
JaJuan Smith	2	2
C.J. Watson	3	7
Major Wingate	10	27

10+ Points

	Season	Career
Stanley Asumnu	11	18
Dane Bradshaw	6	6
Chris Lofton	24	43
Andre Patterson	16	24
JaJuan Smith	14	14
C.J. Watson	27	80
Major Wingate	18	21

20+ Points

	Season	Career
Dane Bradshaw	1	1
Chris Lofton	10	15
Andre Patterson	1	1
C.J. Watson	4	6

30+ Points

	Season	Career
Chris Lofton	2	2

10+ Rebounds

	Season	Career
Dane Bradshaw	4	4
Andre Patterson	6	11
C.J. Watson	0	2

10+ Assists

	Season	Career
C.J. Watson	0	1

Double-Doubles

	Season	Career
Dane Bradshaw	3	3
Andre Patterson	4	6
C.J. Watson	0	2

** includes all ties*

Last Time A Tennessee Player...

Scored 40 Points: 43 by Allan Houston vs. LSU (2/10/1990)
Scored 35 Points: 38 by Ron Slay vs. New Mexico (1/4/2003)
Scored 30 Points: 33 by Chris Lofton at Georgia (2/11/2006)
Scored 25 Points: 25 by Chris Lofton vs. Auburn (2/15/2006)

Scored 30 Or More Points In Back-To-Back Games: Chris Lofton with 31 at Kentucky (2/7/20063) and 33 at Georgia (2/11/20063)

Grabbed 20 Rebounds: 21 by Steve Hamer vs. Alabama (3/7/1996)
Grabbed 15 Rebounds: 15 by Vincent Yarbrough at Arkansas (2/7/2001)

Made 15 Field Goals: 15 (15-19) by Dyron Nix vs. Tennessee Tech (11/25/1988)
Made 10 Field Goals: 10 (10-14) by Chris Lofton at Georgia (2/11/2006)

Attempted 25 Field Goals: 27 (14-27) by Allan Houston vs. LSU (2/10/1990)
Attempted 20 Field Goals: 20 (9-20) by Chris Lofton at Arkansas (2/26/2005)

Made 8 3-pointers: 9 (9-12) by Chris Lofton at Georgia (2/11/2006)
Made 7 3-pointers: 9 (9-12) by Chris Lofton at Georgia (2/11/2006)
Made 6 3-pointers: 6 (6-8) by Chris Lofton at Alabama (2/18/2006)

Attempted 15 3-pointers: 15 (6-15) by Allan Houston vs. LSU (2/10/1990)
Attempted 10 3-pointers: 11 (2-11) by Chris Lofton at Vanderbilt (3/4/2006)

Made 15 Free Throws: 15 (15-19) by Ron Slay vs. New Mexico (1/4/2003)
Made 10 Free Throws: 13 (13-14) by C.J. Watson vs. Lipscomb (2/29/2005)

Attempted 20 Free Throws: 23 (22-23) by Bill Justus vs. Ohio (3/17/1969)
Attempted 15 Free Throws: 15 (12-15) by Ron Slay vs. Alabama (2/22/2003)

Had 15 Assists: 15 by Fred Jenkins vs. Georgia (2/28/1987)
Had 10 Assists: 10 by C.J. Watson vs. Nebraska (12/30/2004)

Had 6 Steals: 7 by Vincent Yarbrough vs. UNC-Greensboro (12/22/1998)
Had 5 Steals: 5 by Andre Patterson at Vanderbilt (3/4/2006)

Had 5 Blocks: 5 by Brandon Crump vs. The Citadel (12/17/2003)

Played Every Minute Of A Game: 40 minutes by C.J. Watson vs. Auburn (3/14/2003)

Converted A 4-Point Play: C.J. Watson vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/2005)

Hit A Shot As Time Expires To Send A Game To Overtime: Terrence Woods hit a 27-foot 3-pointer as time expired to tie the game 63-63. Tennessee won 68-67 in overtime at South Carolina (2/27/2001)

Hit A Shot As Time Expires To Win A Game: Jon Higgins swished a 3-pointer from mid-court with a half-second remaining to give Tennessee a 70-69 win over Georgia Tech (12/15/2002).

Hit A Last-Second Shot To Win A Game: Stanley Asumnu hit a putback off a C.J. Watson miss with 2.6 seconds left to give Tennessee a 66-64 win at Mississippi (1/11/2003)

Had A Triple-Double: Never

Last Time Tennessee...

Scored 110 Points: 110 vs. Georgia (2/9/2000)
Scored 105 Points: 105 vs. Auburn (2/15/2006)
Scored 100 Points: 105 vs. Auburn (2/15/2006)

Allowed 100 Points: 104 vs. Florida (1/9/2002)

Scored 60 Points in a Half: 64 (2nd half) vs. Auburn (2/15/2005)

Did Not Score 20+ Points in a Half: 17 (1st half) at New Mexico (12/18/2004)

Grabbed 55 Rebounds: 57 vs. The Citadel (12/17/03)
Grabbed 50 Rebounds: 51 vs. Coastal Carolina (1/2/05)

Made 40 Field Goals: 40 (40-68) vs. Austin Peay (11/27/2000)

Attempted 90 Field Goals: 91 (38-91) vs. LSU (2/10/1990)
Attempted 80 Field Goals: 81 (36-81) vs. Elon (11/22/1999)
Attempted 75 Field Goals: 77 (27-77) at Memphis (1/18/2006)

Made 15 3-pointers: 16 (16-29) vs. Auburn (2/15/2006)
Made 10 3-pointers: 11 (11-29) vs. South Carolina (3/10/2006)

Attempted 35 3-pointers: 37 (14-37) vs. LSU (2/10/1990)
Attempted 30 3-pointers: 33 (9-33) at Arkansas (2/7/2001)

Made 45 Free Throws: 45 (45-60) vs. George Washington (12/28/2000)
Made 40 Free Throws: 45 (45-60) vs. George Washington (12/28/2000)

Attempted 55 Free Throws: 60 (45-60) vs. George Washington (12/28/2000)

Had 25 Assists: 25 vs. Mississippi (2/4/2006)

Had 20 Steals: 22 vs. American-Puerto Rico (12/21/1999)
Had 15 Steals: 15 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/2005)

Had 12 Blocks: 14 vs. Virginia (12/19/2000)

Did Not Make A 3-Pointer: 0 (0-16) vs. Wofford (2/1/1997)
282 consecutive games since

Had Six Players Scored In Double Figures in Same Game: Chris Lofton (25), JaJuan Smith (19), C.J. Watson (18), Andre Patterson (15), Major Wingate (12), Stanley Asumnu (10) vs. Auburn (2/15/2006).

Had Seven Players Scored In Double Figures in Same Game: Vincent Yarbrough (18), Charles Hathaway (12), Harris Walker (12), Marcus Haislip (12), Isiah Victor (11), Tony Harris (11), Terrence Woods (11) vs. East Tennessee State (11/19/2000)

Had Two Players Record Double-Doubles in Same Game: Ron Slay (24 pts, 12 rebs) and Brandon Crump (14 points, 11 rebs) at Texas A&M (12/4/2002)

Opponent Did Not Have A Player Score in Double Figures: vs. Vanderbilt (2/3/2001)

Had Three Players Score 20+ Points in Same Game: Vincent Yarbrough (26), Marcus Haislip (20), Ron Slay (20) vs. Florida (1/9/2002)

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

Game #1

East Tennessee State (0-1) **83**
Tennessee (1-0) **106**

7:30 p.m. (EST) • Nov. 18, 2005 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

East Tennessee State 0-1			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
01	Dillion Sneed	f	6-11	0-0	3-11	3-8-11	4	15	1	5	0	0	31
51	Brad Nuckles	f	1-3	0-1	0-0	1-4-5	2	2	0	2	0	0	22
03	Courtney Pigram	g	4-10	2-7	6-8	0-1-1	0	16	4	8	0	1	30
04	Ben Rhoda	g	5-7	1-2	0-0	1-6-7	3	11	2	5	0	2	34
05	Tim Smith	g	11-22	2-7	2-3	0-1-1	4	26	8	9	0	3	34
10	Dante Williams		2-2	2-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	6	0	1	0	0	7
20	Eryk Thomas		1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	5	2	0	0	0	0	9
23	Tayloe Taylor		1-2	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	2	2	1	1	0	1	18
25	Travis Strong		1-2	0-1	1-3	0-3-3	4	3	2	2	0	1	15
	TEAM					1-1-2							
	Totals		32-60	7-20	12-25	8-26-34	25	83	18	33	0	8	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 10-25 40.0% 2nd Half: 22-35 62.9% Game: 53.3%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 1-9 11.1% 2nd Half: 6-11 54.5% Game: 35.0%
F Throw % 1st Half: 10-17 58.8% 2nd Half: 2-8 25.0% Game: 48.0%

Tennessee 1-0			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03	Stanley Asumnu	f	8-11	1-2	1-3	3-2-5	2	18	2	1	0	1	21
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	3-7	0-2	7-8	2-10-12	3	13	6	6	0	3	28
01	Major Wingate	c	5-6	0-1	1-6	1-1-2	3	11	2	2	0	0	23
05	Chris Lofton	g	8-16	6-12	2-2	2-2-4	0	24	4	3	0	4	31
32	C.J. Watson	g	6-11	3-5	7-7	0-2-2	2	22	5	4	0	2	31
02	JaJuan Smith		2-5	2-5	0-1	0-4-4	4	6	6	4	0	3	25
11	Eddie DeBro		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
15	Jordan Howell		0-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
22	Andre Patterson		2-6	0-0	3-4	1-2-3	2	7	0	0	2	2	20
34	Ryan Childress		1-1	0-0	3-4	2-2-4	4	5	0	2	0	0	10
	TEAM					0-0-0							
	Totals		35-65	12-28	24-35	11-27-38	22	106	25	23	2	15	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-34 47.1% 2nd Half: 19-31 61.3% Game: 53.8%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 6-16 37.5% 2nd Half: 6-12 50.0% Game: 42.9%
F Throw % 1st Half: 8-13 61.5% 2nd Half: 16-22 72.7% Game: 68.6%

Officials: Eugene Crawford, Tracy Woodson, Everett Summers
Technicals: Tennessee-Major Wingate
Attendance: 21,280

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
East Tennessee State	31	52	83
Tennessee	46	60	106

Game #2

Louisiana-Lafayette (0-2) **76**
Tennessee (2-0) **83**

7:30 p.m. (EST) • Nov. 22, 2005 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Louisiana-Lafayette 0-2			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
01	Ed Turner	f	6-14	1-5	1-4	0-4-4	5	14	1	2	0	2	38
11	Chris Cameron	f	4-14	3-7	1-4	3-4-7	4	12	2	1	0	0	31
44	Michael Southall	c	2-6	0-0	0-1	2-2-4	5	4	2	0	0	0	16
22	Ross Mouton	g	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	2	0	0	1	0	0	6
23	Dwayne Mitchell	g	6-12	1-3	6-11	8-12-20	2	19	6	12	0	4	37
00	J.T. Fields		2-5	1-4	1-2	2-2-4	4	6	0	0	0	1	15
04	Maurice Barksdale		3-5	2-3	6-7	1-3-4	4	14	3	2	0	1	31
05	Lucian Pesoli		1-2	1-2	0-0	0-1-1	2	3	0	2	0	0	8
34	Adam James		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
45	Valentino Hart		2-3	0-0	0-0	0-3-3	2	4	1	0	0	0	12
	TEAM					2-0-2							
	Totals		26-62	9-25	15-29	18-32-50	30	76	16	20	0	8	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 9-25 36.0% 2nd Half: 17-37 45.9% Game: 41.9%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 3-9 33.3% 2nd Half: 6-16 37.5% Game: 36.0%
F Throw % 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd Half: 11-22 50.0% Game: 51.7%

Tennessee 2-0			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03	Stanley Asumnu	f	5-8	0-1	1-4	1-0-1	3	11	1	0	1	0	22
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	2-4	1-2	2-2	1-5-6	2	7	3	1	0	2	26
01	Major Wingate	c	4-13	0-1	4-8	0-3-3	3	12	0	1	3	0	28
05	Chris Lofton	g	4-8	3-6	1-2	1-6-7	3	12	2	2	0	1	34
32	C.J. Watson	g	3-7	2-3	9-13	0-2-2	3	17	5	2	0	2	34
02	JaJuan Smith		1-3	1-3	0-0	1-2-3	0	3	2	1	1	2	24
15	Jordan Howell		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
22	Andre Patterson		6-11	1-1	8-12	2-4-6	4	21	2	4	3	2	25
34	Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
	TEAM					1-2-3					1		
	Totals		25-54	8-17	25-41	7-25-32	22	83	15	12	8	9	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 17-33 51.5% 2nd Half: 8-21 38.1% Game: 46.3%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 4-8 50.0% 2nd Half: 4-9 44.4% Game: 47.1%
F Throw % 1st Half: 5-9 55.6% 2nd Half: 20-32 62.5% Game: 61.0%

Officials: Tony Greene, Mike Nance, Ron Groover
Technicals: Louisiana-Lafayette-Maurice Barksdale
Attendance: 12,089

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Louisiana-Lafayette	25	51	76
Tennessee	43	40	83

Game #3

Eastern Kentucky (1-3) **58**
Tennessee (3-0) **92**

7:30 p.m. (EST) • Nov. 25, 2005 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Eastern Kentucky 1-3			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
13	Harrison Brown	f	1-5	1-3	0-0	0-0-0	0	3	4	4	1	3	34
33	Alonzo Hird	f	5-7	0-0	2-4	1-3-4	3	12	0	3	0	0	25
12	Matt Witt	g	2-8	2-3	0-0	0-5-5	3	6	4	7	0	1	30
20	Mike Rose	g	5-6	1-2	2-3	2-2-4	1	13	1	2	0	1	33
30	Jason McLeish	g	5-13	0-2	2-4	2-1-3	4	12	2	2	0	0	23
05	Bubba Long		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	3	2	0	1	10
15	Michael Brock		2-5	1-2	0-0	2-1-3	2	5	1	0	0	0	16
21	Darnell Dialls		1-5	0-0	0-1	1-4-5	1	2	0	2	0	0	15
32	Greg Redford		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
42	Derek Adams		1-2	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	0	3	1	2	0	0	6
44	Ryan Wiersma		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	1	2	1	1	0	0	7
	TEAM					1-2-3							
	Totals		23-52	6-14	6-12	9-20-29	16	58	17	25	1	7	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 12-26 46.2% 2nd Half: 11-26 42.3% Game: 44.2%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 3-7 42.9% 2nd Half: 3-7 42.9% Game: 42.9%
F Throw % 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd Half: 4-7 57.1% Game: 50.0%

Tennessee 3-0			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03	Stanley Asumnu	f	3-5	0-1	0-0	0-2-2	3	6	5	1	0	0	16
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	3-7	1-2	0-0	1-6-7	3	7	3	2	1	5	26
01	Major Wingate	c	6-8	0-0	6-6	4-1-5	1	18	1	3	1	0	27
05	Chris Lofton	g	5-11	4-8	3-3	0-2-2	1	17	1	0	1	4	30
32	C.J. Watson	g	5-7	2-3	0-0	0-1-1	1	12	6	4	0	4	28
02	JaJuan Smith		3-8	1-3	1-2	0-4-4	2	8	2	2	0	0	24
11	Eddie DeBro		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5
12	Justin Jackson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
15	Jordan Howell		2-3	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	5	0	0	0	0	4
21	Jordan Smith		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0+
22	Andre Patterson		5-7	0-0	0-1	1-3-4	2	10	0	0	0	0	21
30	Ben Bosse		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
34	Ryan Childress		1-5	0-2	3-5	2-1-3	1	5	2	0	0	0	15
44	Jonah Cox		0-0	0-0	2-2	1-0-1	0	2	0	0	0	1	2
	TEAM					1-2-3							
	Totals		34-62	9-21	15-19	10-22-32	15	92	21	13	3	14	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-29 55.2% 2nd Half: 18-33 54.5% Game: 54.8%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 3-8 37.5% 2nd Half: 6-13 46.2% Game: 42.9%
F Throw % 1st Half: 9-11 81.8% 2nd Half: 6-8 75.0% Game: 78.9%

Officials: Joe Lindsay, J.B. Caldwell, John Goble
Technicals: None
Attendance: 13,686

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Eastern Kentucky	29	29	58
Tennessee	44	48	92

Game #4

Murray State (1-2) **53**
Tennessee (4-0) **64**

7 p.m. (CST) • Nov. 30, 2005 • Gaylord Entertainment Center • Nashville, Tennessee

Murray State 1-2			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Shawn Witherspoon	f	4-8	2-5	0-0	1-8-9	2	10	3	1	2	0	31
25	Justin Orr	f	1-3	0-2	1-3	0-4-4	2	3	3	4	1	0	21
44	Pearson Griffith	c	2-5	0-0	0-0	3-2-5	3	4	1	2	4	1	26
00	Trey Pearson	g	3-11	0-6	2-4	3-5-8	3	8	2	2	0	2	31
10	Keith Jenifer	g	1-10	1-2	0-0	0-3-3	1	3	2	3	0	1	28
04	Tyler Holloway		4-6	3-5	0-0	0-0-0	1	11	0	2	0	0	18
14	Darnell Hopkins		0-2	0-1	0-0	0-2-2	0	0	2	0	0	0	10
33	Rob Kennedy		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	9
40	Issian Redding		6-10	2-2	0-1	4-2-6	0	14	1	3	0	1	26
	TEAM					1-0-1							
	Totals		21-56	8-23	3-8	12-26-38	13	53	15	17	7	5	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 13-28 46.4% 2nd Half: 8-28 28.6% Game: 37.5%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 5-11 45.5% 2nd Half: 3-12 25.0% Game: 34.8%
F Throw % 1st Half: 1-3 33.3% 2nd Half: 2-5 40.0% Game: 37.5%

Tennessee 4-0			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03	Stanley Asumnu	f	3-9	0-0	1-2	2-4-6	0	7	0	2	1	0	23
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	2-7	1-4	0-0	1-3-4	3	5	2	2	0	2	24
01	Major Wingate	c	4-13	0-1	2-2	4-1-5	1	10	0	0	2	0	28
05	Chris Lofton	g	7-15	4-9	0-0	1-1-2	0	18	1	0	0	3	33
32	C.J. Watson	g	3-8	1-3	4-4	0-3-3	3	11	7	1	0	2	32
02	JaJuan Smith		1-6	0-3	0-1	1-5-6	0	2	1	0	0	2	22
11	Eddie DeBro		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
15	Jordan Howell		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
22	Andre Patterson		5-12	0-0	1-4	8-6-14	2	11	0	4	0	0	27
34	Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
	TEAM					4-2-6							
	Totals		25-70	6-20	8-13	22-26-48	11	64	13	9	3	9	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 10-36 27.8% 2nd Half: 15-34 44.1% Game: 35.7%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 2-11 18.2% 2nd Half: 4-9 44.4% Game: 30.0%
F Throw % 1st Half: 4-8 50.0% 2nd Half: 4-5 80.0% Game: 61.5%

Officials: Doug Sirmons, Roger Ayers, Lee Cassell
Technicals: None
Attendance: 6,745

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Murray State	32	21	53
Tennessee	26	38	64

Game #5

Appalachian State (3-4) **81**
Tennessee (5-0) **89**

7:00 p.m. (EST) • Dec. 5, 2005 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Appalachian State 3-4			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
41	McLaughlin-Williams	f	7-9	5-5	2-4	2-4-6	3	21	1	3	0	0	31
00	Demetrius Scott	g	2-5	0-1	0-0	0-5-5	3	4	3	3	1	0	37
04	Nathan Cranford	g	2-4	1-3	2-3	0-2-2	4	7	1	0	0	0	26
11	D.J. Thompson	g	5-18	2-11	2-2	2-3-5	2	14	8	2	0	2	38
30	Jarvis Jackson	g	5-11	2-2	1-1	2-1-3	1	13	2	3	0	0	25
12	P.L. Henderson		2-2	0-0	1-1	1-2-3	1	5	0	0	0	0	7
20	Jeremy Harper		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1
21	Eduardo Bermudez		2-5	1-2	2-2	0-2-2	1	7	2	4	0	1	14
33	Tyler Webb		3-4	0-0	4-4	1-3-4	3	10	1	3	1	0	21
	TEAM					1-0-1							
	Totals		28-58	11-24	14-17	9-22-31	18	81	19	19	2	3	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-32 50.0% 2nd Half: 12-26 46.2% Game: 48.3%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 8-12 66.7% 2nd Half: 3-12 25.0% Game: 45.8%
F Throw % 1st Half: 6-6 100% 2nd Half: 8-11 72.7% Game: 82.4%

Tennessee 5-0			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03	Stanley Asumnu	f	4-7	0-0	4-5	1-1-2	2	12	3	2	0	0	26
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	2-6	0-1	0-0	3-7-10	2	4	6	1	3	1	31
01	Major Wingate	c	6-11	0-0	0-1	2-1-3	3	12	1	4	0	1	27
05	Chris Lofton	g	5-12	2-7	3-4	2-2-4	1	15	3	1	0	0	31
32	C.J. Watson	g	7-10	5-7	4-5	0-4-4	4	23	5	2	0	3	33
02	JaJuan Smith		3-7	3-5	0-0	1-1-2	1	9	2	2	0	2	23
15	Jordan Howell		1-1	1-1	0-0	0-1-1	0	3	0	0	0	0	5
22	Andre Patterson		5-7	0-0	1-2	0-3-3	4	11	0	2	1	3	20
34	Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-2	1-0-1	0	0	1	2	0	0	4
	TEAM					1-2-3	1						
	Totals		33-61	11-21	12-19	11-22-33	18	89	21	16	4	10	200

%TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 19-33 57.6% 2nd Half: 14-28 50.0% Game: 54.1%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 6-10 60.0% 2nd Half: 5-11 45.5% Game: 52.4%
F Throw % 1st Half: 4-8 50.0% 2nd Half: 8-11 72.7% Game: 63.2%

Officials: Gerald Boudreaux, Bert Smith, Mike Eades
Technicals: Tennessee-Bench.
Attendance: 12,876

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Appalachian State	46	35	81
Tennessee	48	41	89

Game #6

Tennessee (6-0) **95**
#6 **Texas** (8-2) **78**

1:00 p.m. (CST) • Dec. 17, 2005 • Erwin Center • Austin, Texas

Tennessee 6-0			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03	Stanley Asumnu	f	2-8	0-1	3-4	2-3-5	0	7	2	1	0	1	26
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	1-7	1-4	4-4	2-3-5	3	7	3	0	0	2	30
01	Major Wingate	c	4-6	0-0	4-4	1-0-1	5	12	2	1	0	1	22
05	Chris Lofton	g	8-14	5-9	0-0	1-1-2	4	21	0	3	0	3	27
32	C.J. Watson	g	5-8	1-2	6-6	1-5-6	3	17	4	1	0	3	35
02	JaJuan Smith		4-8	4-6	0-2	1-1-2	2	12	3	1	0	0	25
15	Jordan Howell		1-2	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	0	3	0	1	0	0	8
22	Andre Patterson		3-3	0-0	6-6	1-1-2	4	12	1	2	1	1	13
34	Ryan Childress		1-2	0-0	2-2	1-1-2	5	4	1	0	0	0	14
	TEAM					0-0-0							
	Totals		29-58	12-24	25-28	10-15-25	26	95	16	10	1	11	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-32 50.0% 2nd Half: 13-26 50.0% Game: 50.0%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 7-14 50.0% 2nd Half: 5-10 50.0% Game: 50.0%
F Throw % 1st Half: 9-10 90.0% 2nd Half: 16-18 88.9% Game: 89.3%

Texas 8-2			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
02	P.J. Tucker	f	9-17	0-0	2-4	6-5-11	5	20	5	4	0	1	36
40	Mike Williams	f	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	2	0	1	1	0	0	13
23	LaMarcus Aldridge	c	4-5	0-0	7-10	3-6-9	4	15	0	4	3	2	38
01	Daniel Gibson	g	1-2	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	2	0	2	0	0	9
12	Kenton Paulino	g	3-11	3-9	4-4	2-1-3	2	13	1	3	0	0	38
03	Dion Dowell		0-2	0-1	0-1	1-1-2	3	0	0	1	0	1	14
04	J.D. Lewis		2-3	2-3	2-3	0-1-1	4	8	1	1	0	0	13
05	A.J. Abrams		6-11	5-9	2-4	1-0-1	4	19	2	5	0	0	31
30	Craig Winder		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
32	Connor Atchley		0-0	0-0	1-2	0-2-2	0	1	0	1	1	0	7
	TEAM					2-3-5							
	Totals		25-52	10-22	18-28	15-22-37	26	78	10	22	4	4	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 9-19 47.4% 2nd Half: 16-33 48.5% Game: 48.1%
3-Pt. FG% 1st Half: 2-5 40.0% 2nd Half: 8-17 47.1% Game: 45.5%
F Throw % 1st Half: 8-13 61.5% 2nd Half: 10-15 66.7% Game: 64.3%

Officials: Tim Higgins, Gerald Boudreaux, Tom Eades
Technicals: None
Attendance: 13,682

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	48	47	95
Texas	28	50	78

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

Game #7

#23 **Tennessee** (6-1) **73**

Oklahoma State (8-3) **89**

5:00 p.m. (CST) • Dec. 22, 2005 • Ford Center • Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Tennessee 6-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	3-8	0-1	0-0	2-3-5	1	6	2	3	1	0	23
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	1-4	0-1	0-0	1-3-4	4	2	3	0	0	1	24
01 Major Wingate	c	2-6	0-0	4-7	1-3-4	4	8	1	1	1	2	25
05 Chris Lofton	g	8-16	3-10	2-2	0-1-1	3	21	1	2	0	5	35
32 C.J. Watson	g	3-9	2-5	4-4	0-1-1	4	12	1	3	0	3	27
02 JaJuan Smith		2-7	2-7	0-0	0-1-1	2	6	0	2	0	1	22
15 Jordan Howell		3-3	2-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	8	2	1	0	0	13
22 Andre Patterson		4-8	0-0	2-4	2-2-4	3	10	1	4	1	0	26
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-3-3	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
TEAM					1-1-2							
Totals		26-61	9-26	12-17	7-18-25	24	73	12	16	3	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 10-22 45.5%	2nd Half: 16-39 41.0%	Game: 42.6%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 2-6 33.3%	2nd Half: 7-20 35.0%	Game: 34.6%
F Throw %	1st Half: 4-9 44.4%	2nd Half: 8-8 100%	Game: 70.6%

Oklahoma State 8-3		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
04 Mario Boggan	f	4-7	0-0	6-8	1-2-3	3	14	2	4	0	1	32
05 Marcus Dove	f	2-2	0-0	1-1	1-2-3	1	5	0	1	0	1	17
32 David Monds	c	6-9	0-0	3-4	2-9-11	3	15	0	1	0	1	29
00 Byron Eaton	g	7-9	0-1	2-2	0-1-1	4	16	2	1	0	4	26
24 JamesOn Curry	g	5-11	2-5	4-5	0-7-7	0	16	7	3	1	1	37
01 Terrel Harris		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	2	0	1	2	0	0	5
10 Jamaal Brown		3-7	2-4	0-0	0-0-0	1	8	5	2	0	1	17
12 Roderick Flemings		4-4	0-0	1-2	1-2-3	0	9	1	3	0	2	18
40 Kenny Cooper		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
50 Aaron Pettway		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	2	1	0	0	0	5
55 Torre Johnson		2-4	0-0	0-3	0-4-4	0	4	1	0	1	0	13
TEAM					2-1-3				4			
Totals		34-54	4-10	17-25	7-31-38	15	89	20	21	2	11	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 17-30 56.7%	2nd Half: 17-24 70.8%	Game: 63.0%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 2-6 33.3%	2nd Half: 2-4 50.0%	Game: 40.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 6-9 66.7%	2nd Half: 11-16 68.8%	Game: 68.0%

Officials: Mike Thibodeaux, Steve Olson, James Breeding
Technicals: None
Attendance: 17,522

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	26	47	73
Oklahoma State	42	47	89

Game #8

Alabama A&M (2-4) **68**

Tennessee (7-1) **93**

7:30 p.m. (EST) • Dec. 27, 2005 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Alabama A&M 2-4		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
20 Kudus Ogbara	f	1-3	0-0	0-0	2-1-3	0	2	2	1	0	0	22
24 Michael Ford	f	4-13	1-4	3-3	1-2-3	2	12	4	1	1	0	27
40 Mickell Gladness	f	0-2	0-0	0-0	2-3-5	2	0	0	4	0	0	21
04 Joe Martin	g	11-16	3-5	2-2	1-5-6	3	27	1	3	0	1	32
12 Obie Trotter	g	3-13	2-4	4-4	1-1-2	4	12	4	5	0	0	29
10 Marcus Jones		1-3	1-1	2-2	1-4-5	0	5	2	0	0	1	16
22 Teaco Mickles		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
33 Evan Hilton		2-6	2-5	0-0	0-3-3	1	6	5	3	0	0	21
41 Kevin Smith		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	2	2	1	0	0	0	11
42 Norris Arnold		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	1	0	4
45 Johnnie Brown		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
55 Chris Collins		1-4	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	2	0	0	0	0	15
TEAM					3-1-4							
Totals		24-62	9-19	11-11	11-21-32	16	68	19	17	2	2	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-30 40.0%	2nd Half: 12-32 37.5%	Game: 38.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 6-12 50.0%	2nd Half: 3-7 42.9%	Game: 47.4%
F Throw %	1st Half: 2-2 100%	2nd Half: 9-9 100%	Game: 100%

Tennessee 7-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	7-12	0-1	1-2	0-2-2	1	15	3	1	1	1	24
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	0-2	0-1	0-0	0-1-1	2	0	6	0	1	1	16
22 Andre Patterson	c	4-8	0-0	1-1	4-10-14	3	9	3	0	0	3	27
05 Chris Lofton	g	6-12	5-9	2-2	1-3-4	0	19	4	0	0	1	27
32 C.J. Watson	g	5-9	2-5	4-4	1-2-3	4	16	4	1	0	0	25
01 Major Wingate		4-5	0-0	0-0	0-4-4	1	8	0	3	2	0	18
02 JaJuan Smith		6-9	2-4	2-2	1-0-1	3	16	5	0	0	2	25
11 Eddie DeBro		1-2	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
12 Justin Jackson		0-2	0-0	0-2	2-1-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
15 Jordan Howell		1-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	2	1	0	0	2	13
21 Jordan Smith		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	2	1	0	1
24 Tanner Wild		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30 Ben Bosse		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
34 Ryan Childress		2-2	0-0	2-2	1-1-2	1	6	2	2	2	0	15
TEAM					0-1-1							
Totals		36-65	9-21	12-15	10-27-37	16	93	28	9	7	10	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 17-32 53.1%	2nd Half: 19-33 57.6%	Game: 55.4%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 8-14 57.1%	2nd Half: 1-7 14.3%	Game: 42.9%
F Throw %	1st Half: 3-4 75.0%	2nd Half: 9-11 81.8%	Game: 80.0%

Officials: Ted Valentine, Pat Adams, Billy Dunlap
Technicals: None
Attendance: 15,797

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Alabama A&M	32	36	68
Tennessee	45	48	93

Game #9

Lipscomb (5-5) **58**

Tennessee (8-1) **69**

7:00 p.m. (EST) • Dec. 29, 2005 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Lipscomb 5-5		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
02 Cameron Robinson	f	1-3	0-0	0-0	2-7-9	3	2	0	4	2	1	26
14 Eddie Ard	f	8-14	3-5	5-6	2-4-6	2	24	1	5	0	0	33
00 Shaun Durant	c	1-5	0-0	0-0	2-4-6	5	2	0	1	0	1	25
03 Trey Williams	g	1-3	1-3	0-0	0-7-7	5	3	3	3	0	0	28
05 Brian Fisk	g	7-21	2-5	3-4	2-2-4	4	19	5	3	0	1	35
11 Joe Peters		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
12 Brandon Hartwell		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20 LaKory Daniels		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
32 Jason Guyette		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-1-1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
34 James Poindexter		1-6	1-4	3-4	1-3-4	1	6	2	3	0	0	25
40 Thomas Pfaff		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	2	0	0	0	0	6
42 Michael Lusk		0-2	0-1	0-0	0-2-2	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
TEAM					2-1-3							
Totals		20-56	7-19	11-14	11-32-43	25	58	12	21	2	4	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 9-29 31.0%	2nd Half: 11-27 40.7%	Game: 35.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-14 35.7%	2nd Half: 2-5 40.0%	Game: 36.8%
F Throw %	1st Half: 3-4 75.0%	2nd Half: 8-10 80.0%	Game: 78.6%

Tennessee 8-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	5-9	0-0	1-6	1-2-3	1	11	1	2	1	2	22
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	2-7	0-3	2-3	2-4-6	3	6	3	0	1	1	28
01 Major Wingate	c	5-11	1-1	2-2	1-6-7	0	13	0	1	3	1	24
05 Chris Lofton	g	2-5	2-4	0-1	0-3-3	1	6	4	0	0	2	33
32 C.J. Watson	g	2-8	1-6	13-14	0-5-5	0	18	1	3	0	3	32
02 JaJuan Smith		3-10	1-5	1-1	0-1-1	3	8	1	0	0	2	25
15 Jordan Howell		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
22 Andre Patterson		1-3	0-0	3-4	2-4-6	3	5	2	4	0	0	23
34 Ryan Childress		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	2	0	1	0	1	5
TEAM					1-0-1							
Totals		21-55	5-20	22-31	7-26-33	12	69	13	11	5	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 10-30 33.3%	2nd Half: 11-25 44.0%	Game: 38.2%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-12 41.7%	2nd Half: 0-8 0.0%	Game: 25.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 2-6 33.3%	2nd Half: 20-25 80.0%	Game: 71.0%

Officials: Tom Lopes, John Hampton, Roger Ayers
Technicals: Lipscomb-Brian Fisk.
Attendance: 15,967

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Lipscomb	26	32	58
Tennessee	27	42	69

Game #10

South Alabama (9-3) **69**

Tennessee (9-1) **87**

7:00 p.m. (EST) • Jan. 4, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

South Alabama 9-3		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
13 Leandro Buboltz	f	4-5	2-3	0-0	0-2-2	0	10	1	1	0	0	25
35 Richard Law	f	2-4	1-2	2-2	1-4-5	0	7	1	1	0	0	27
02 Mario Jointer	g	6-12	2-5	3-4	2-2-4	2	17	3	4	0	1	34
03 Chey Christie	g	2-5	1-1	2-2	1-6-7	3	7	4	1	1	0	29
11 Carlos Smith	g	1-6	1-3	1-2	0-1-1	2	4	3	4	0	0	25
01 Michael Phillips		6-8	0-0	4-6	2-0-2	2	16	0	1	0	0	17
04 Jeffrey Collins		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
10 Demetric Bennett		2-8	0-1	0-0	0-3-3	0	4	1	0	0	1	22
21 Trajinski Grigsby		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
33 Jason McGriff		2-6	0-0	0-0	2-6-8	0	4	0	1	0	0	18
TEAM					1-0-1	1						
Totals		25-55	7-15	12-16	9-24-33	11	69	13	14	1	3	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 11-25 44.0%	2nd Half: 14-30 46.7%	Game: 45.5%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-8 62.5%	2nd Half: 2-7 28.6%	Game: 46.7%
F Throw %	1st Half: 6-8 75.0%	2nd Half: 6-8 75.0%	Game: 75.0%

Tennessee 9-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	3-4	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	2	6	1	1	0	0	14
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	2-5	1-2	1-2	0-5-5	0	6	8	0	0	3	26
01 Major Wingate	c	8-11	0-0	1-1	1-4-5	2	17	4	3	4	0	26
05 Chris Lofton	g	5-11	4-10	0-0	0-3-3	2	14	4	0	1	3	26
32 C.J. Watson	g	6-9	0-0	4-5	0-3-3	1	16	5	0	0	1	30
02 JaJuan Smith		4-8	2-5	0-0	0-0-0	2	10	3	2	0	2	27
11 Eddie DeBro		1-2	0-1	0-0	1-2-3	0	2	2	0	0	1	9
12 Justin Jackson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
15 Jordan Howell		2-2	2-2	0-0	0-1-1	0	6	1	0	0	0	10
21 Jordan Smith		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
22 Andre Patterson		4-7	0-0	1-2	1-0-1	3	9	1	0	0	0	17
24 Tanner Wild		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
30 Ben Bosse		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
34 Ryan Childress		0-2	0-0	1-2	2-1-3	3	1	0	0	0	0	7
TEAM					0-1-1							
Totals		35-62	9-20	8-12	5-22-27	15	87	29	8	5	10	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 18-31 58.1%	2nd Half: 17-31 54.8%	Game: 56.5%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 6-13 46.2%	2nd Half: 3-7 42.9%	Game: 45.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 6-10 60.0%	2nd Half: 2-2 100%	Game: 66.7%

Officials: Gerald Boudreaux, J.B. Caldwell, Lee Cassell
Technicals: South Alabama-Team.
Attendance: 11,248

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
South Alabama	33	36	69
Tennessee	48	39	87

Game #11

Tennessee (10-1, 1-0) **76**

South Carolina (9-5, 0-1) **69**

1:30 p.m. (EST) • Jan. 8, 2006 • Colonial Center • Columbia, South Carolina

Tennessee 10-1, 1-0		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	1-4	0-0	0-2	0-2-2	0	2	0	1	0	0	18
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	6-11	2-3	0-3	2-5-7	4	14	4	0	0	1	26
01 Major Wingate	c	3-8	0-0	1-5	1-2-3	1	7	0	3	0	1	35
05 Chris Lofton	g	6-10	6-7	0-0	1-4-5	3	18	0	1	0	1	33
32 C.J. Watson	g	5-11	1-3	6-8	0-2-2	1	17	3	1	0	3	37
02 JaJuan Smith		4-6	2-3	3-4	2-1-3	3	13	2	0	0	1	25
11 Eddie DeBro		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
15 Jordan Howell		1-2	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	2	3	0	0	0	0	6
22 Andre Patterson		1-5	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	4	2	1	0	1	0	14
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
TEAM					4-2-6							
Totals		27-57	12-18	10-22	11-19-30	20	76	11	6	1	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 9-29 31.0%	2nd Half: 18-28 64.3%	Game: 47.4%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 2-5 40.0%	2nd Half: 10-13 76.9%	Game: 66.7%
F Throw %	1st Half: 3-12 25.0%	2nd Half: 7-10 70.0%	Game: 45.5%

South Carolina 9-5, 0-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
21 Tarence Kinsey	f	6-6	4-4	2-2	0-4-4	4	18	3	1	1	1	29
33 Brandon Wallace	f	2-6	0-2	2-4	1-4-5	1	6	2	1	1	0	40
34 Renaldo Balkman	f	4-7	0-0	0-1	2-7-9	2	8	3	2	1	1	33
01 Tre Kelley	g	2-10	1-5	2-2	0-3-3	5	7	4	2	0	0	36
10 Rocky Trice	g	5-9	0-3	5-5	3-4-7	3	15	0	4	1	1	39
04 Bryce Sheldon		3-6	3-6	0-0	0-0-0	0	9	0	1	0	2	17
14 Antoine Tisby		2-3	0-0	2-3	0-1-1	2	6	0	1	0	0	5
23 Dwayne Day		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
TEAM					0-2-2							
Totals		24-47	8-20	13-17	6-25-31	17	69	12	12	4	5	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 11-22 50.0%	2nd Half: 13-25 52.0%	Game: 51.1%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-10 40.0%	2nd Half: 4-10 40.0%	Game: 40.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 9-10 90.0%	2nd Half: 4-7 57.1%	Game: 76.5%

Officials: Tom Lopes, Pat Adams, Rick Crawford
Technicals: None
Attendance: 8,237

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	23	53	76
South Carolina	35	34	69

Game #12

Georgia (10-5, 0-2) **76**

Tennessee (11-1, 2-0) **89**

7:30 p.m. (EST) • Jan. 11, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Georgia 10-5, 0-2		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
15 Steve Newman	f	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
44 Dave Bliss	c	0-1	0-0	0-2	0-5-5	1	0	0	0	1	0	10
02 Sundiata Gaines	g	6-9	0-0	5-8	2-2-4	2	17	2	5	0	1	28
14 Levi Stukes	g	3-6	2-4	0-0	0-1-1	4	8	1	1	0	0	18
25 Channing Toney	g	6-9	1-2	2-3	2-3-5	1	15	2	1	0	1	33
00 Younes Idrissi		1-3	0-0	1-2	0-4-4	3	3	2	4	2	1	22
01 Kendrick Johnson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1
30 Terrance Woodbury		3-9	0-2	2-4	4-4-8	4	8	1	1	0	0	19
31 Billy Humphrey		1-2	1-2	1-2	1-1-2	4	4	2	3	0	0	19
33 Mike Mercer		5-14	3-9	2-2	1-1-2	0	15	1	3	0	2	32
45 Rashaad Singleton		3-4	0-0	0-0	1-3-4	3	6	1	2	0	0	14
TEAM					0-1-1							
Totals		28-57	7-19	13-23	11-26-37	23	76	12	22	4	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-26 57.7%	2nd Half: 13-31 41.9%	Game: 49.1%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-7 57.1%	2nd Half: 3-12 25.0%	Game: 36.8%
Throw %	1st Half: 2-6 33.3%	2nd Half: 11-17 64.7%	Game: 56.5%

Tennessee 11-1, 2-0		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	4-6	0-0	1-2	1-2-3	1	9	2	3	1	1	19
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	1-4	0-2	1-3	2-6-8	2	3	8	2	1	1	30
01 Major Wingate	c	6-8	0-1	2-3	3-3-6	4	14	1	1	0	0	23
05 Chris Lofton	g	6-11	2-6	2-2	0-2-2	2	16	1	0	0	1	32
32 C.J. Watson	g	5-6	1-2	9-10	1-8-9	4	20	6	2	0	5	31
02 JaJuan Smith		4-11	4-8	4-4	0-1-1	1	16	1	2	0	3	27
11 Eddie DeBro		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
15 Jordan Howell		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
22 Andre Patterson		5-12	0-0	1-4	1-2-3	3	11	1	2	1	2	24
34 Ryan Childress		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
TEAM					1-0-1							
Totals		31-61	7-19	20-28	9-24-33	19	89	20	13	3	13	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-31 48.4%	2nd Half: 16-30 53.3%	Game: 50.8%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-9 33.3%	2nd Half: 4-10 40.0%	Game: 36.8%
F Throw %	1st Half: 7-13 53.8%	2nd Half: 13-15 86.7%	Game: 71.4%

Officials: Gary Maxwell, Rick Crawford, Ron Groover
Technicals: None.
Attendance: 21,612

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Georgia	36	40	76
Tennessee	40	49	89

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

Game #13

Tennessee (11-2, 2-1) **74**

LSU (10-5, 2-0) **88**

7:00 p.m. (CST) • Jan. 14, 2006 • Maravich Center • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Tennessee 11-2, 2-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	5-11	0-0	3-4	2-2-4	1	13	0	3	1	3	24
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	3-5	2-3	1-3	2-1-3	4	9	3	3	0	0	26
01 Major Wingate	c	6-10	0-0	1-3	0-3-3	4	13	0	1	0	1	30
05 Chris Lofton	g	1-7	0-4	0-0	0-0-0	1	2	2	2	0	1	32
32 C.J. Watson	g	7-16	1-5	3-3	3-0-3	3	18	3	1	0	1	33
02 JaJuan Smith		3-12	3-9	0-0	1-1-2	4	9	1	0	0	3	24
15 Jordan Howell		0-2	0-1	0-0	1-0-1	3	0	1	0	0	0	7
22 Andre Patterson		5-12	0-0	0-1	1-5-6	3	10	1	1	2	2	22
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
TEAM					1-1-2							
Totals		30-75	6-22	8-14	12-13-25	24	74	11	11	3	11	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 10-37 27.0%	2nd Half: 20-38 52.6%	Game: 40.0%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-10 10.0%	2nd Half: 5-12 41.7%	Game: 27.3%
F Throw %	1st Half: 6-9 66.7%	2nd Half: 2-5 40.0%	Game: 57.1%

LSU 10-5, 2-0		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
00 Glen Davis	f	10-13	0-0	4-8	3-7-10	2	24	1	1	2	4	25
01 Tasmin Mitchell	f	5-9	1-2	2-3	1-5-6	4	13	4	1	0	1	34
12 Tyrus Thomas	f	7-7	0-0	3-3	0-9-9	4	17	1	2	9	0	32
14 Garrett Temple	g	3-5	0-1	3-3	1-7-8	2	9	3	6	1	1	38
22 Darrel Mitchell	g	2-8	0-1	7-8	1-3-4	4	11	3	6	0	1	24
04 Ben Voogd		2-2	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	4	3	5	0	1	20
15 Magnum Rolle		0-1	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	1	0	0	1	0	0	3
35 Darnell Lazare		2-3	0-0	6-7	0-4-4	2	10	0	3	1	2	24
TEAM					0-1-1							
Totals		31-48	1-4	25-32	7-36-43	19	88	15	25	13	10	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-23 52.2%	2nd Half: 19-25 76.0%	Game: 64.6%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-3 33.3%	2nd Half: 0-1 0.0%	Game: 25.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 5-6 83.3%	2nd Half: 20-26 76.9%	Game: 78.1%

Officials: Doug Shows, Doug Sirmons, John Goble
Technicals: Tennessee-Team.
Attendance: 9,733

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	27	47	74
LSU	30	58	88

Game #14

Tennessee (11-3) **79**

#4 **Memphis** (16-2) **88**

7:00 p.m. (CST) • Jan. 18, 2006 • FedExForum • Memphis, Tennessee

Tennessee 11-3		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	5-16	0-0	1-2	2-3-5	2	11	3	1	0	1	27
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	9-13	1-2	2-4	5-5-10	3	21	4	3	0	5	31
01 Major Wingate	c	5-12	0-0	1-2	2-4-6	2	11	3	2	0	1	30
05 Chris Lofton	g	5-13	4-11	2-2	2-5-7	4	16	1	2	0	3	33
32 C.J. Watson	g	2-10	2-6	8-11	0-1-1	4	14	2	2	1	2	29
02 JaJuan Smith		0-7	0-4	0-0	0-2-2	3	0	0	3	1	1	18
11 Eddie DeBro		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
15 Jordan Howell		0-2	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
22 Andre Patterson		1-4	0-0	4-5	4-3-7	4	6	2	0	0	0	13
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
TEAM					4-1-5				1			
Totals		27-77	7-25	18-26	19-25-44	23	79	15	15	2	13	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-40 37.5%	2nd Half: 12-37 32.4%	Game: 35.1%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-15 33.3%	2nd Half: 2-10 20.0%	Game: 28.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 10-12 83.3%	2nd Half: 8-14 57.1%	Game: 69.2%

Memphis 16-2		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
04 Shawne Williams	f	8-16	0-4	5-6	5-9-14	3	21	2	5	4	0	34
10 Rodney Carney	f	8-17	6-12	0-2	2-5-7	3	22	1	1	0	0	30
03 C. Douglas-Roberts	g	4-7	0-2	3-4	2-3-5	2	11	1	2	2	0	24
32 Joey Dorsey	g	4-4	0-0	0-1	4-7-11	4	8	1	3	4	4	31
35 Darius Washington	g	2-12	1-4	12-14	1-4-5	1	17	5	5	0	0	29
02 Robert Dozier		0-2	0-1	0-0	0-4-4	3	0	0	1	0	0	9
12 Antonio Anderson		3-6	1-3	2-2	1-1-2	3	9	4	1	0	2	25
15 Andre Allen		0-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	2	0	3	1	0	1	12
42 Kareem Cooper		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
TEAM					0-1-1							
Totals		29-67	8-27	22-29	15-34-49	21	88	17	19	10	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-40 37.5%	2nd Half: 14-27 51.9%	Game: 43.3%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-18 16.7%	2nd Half: 5-9 55.6%	Game: 29.6%
F Throw %	1st Half: 8-8 100%	2nd Half: 14-21 66.7%	Game: 75.9%

Officials: J.B. Caldwell, Rick Crawford, John Hampton
Technicals: Memphis-Joey Dorsey.
Attendance: 18,144

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	45	34	79
Memphis	41	47	88

Game #15

#2 **Florida** (17-1, 3-1) **76**

Tennessee (12-3, 3-1) **80**

7:00 p.m. (EST) • Jan. 21, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Florida 17-1, 3-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
02 Corey Brewer	f	8-12	0-2	4-4	1-7-8	2	20	0	3	0	1	26
13 Joakim Noah	f	5-6	0-0	1-3	2-6-8	5	11	2	2	3	0	27
42 Al Horford	c	5-10	0-0	1-2	3-5-8	3	11	3	1	4	3	32
11 Taurean Green	g	5-15	3-10	4-5	1-3-4	3	17	6	6	0	1	34
12 Lee Humphrey	g	1-5	1-4	0-0	1-2-3	2	3	4	2	0	1	28
04 Adrian Moss		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	9
15 Walter Hodge		2-3	1-2	0-1	0-1-1	1	5	2	2	0	0	20
32 Chris Richard		2-3	0-0	0-1	0-2-2	4	4	0	1	0	1	12
33 David Huertas		2-3	1-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	5	1	1	0	0	12
TEAM					1-1-1							
Totals		30-57	6-19	10-16	8-27-35	22	76	19	19	7	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 18-30 60.0%	2nd Half: 12-27 44.4%	Game: 52.6%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-9 44.4%	2nd Half: 2-10 20.0%	Game: 31.6%
F Throw %	1st Half: 2-3 66.7%	2nd Half: 8-13 61.5%	Game: 62.5%

Tennessee 12-3, 3-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Stanley Asumnu	f	0-3	0-0	1-2	1-0-1	0	1	0	3	0	0	12
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	4-6	0-1	0-1	2-5-7	4	8	4	2	1	3	29
01 Major Wingate	c	2-7	0-0	3-4	1-1-2	4	7	0	3	0	0	21
05 Chris Lofton	g	10-19	5-13	4-4	1-5-6	0	29	3	1	0	3	35
32 C.J. Watson	g	1-8	0-4	4-4	0-2-2	5	6	6	1	0	1	29
02 JaJuan Smith		4-8	1-3	1-2	3-3-6	1	10	0	1	0	1	29
15 Jordan Howell		1-2	1-1	1-2	0-1-1	1	4	1	0	0	0	11
22 Andre Patterson		6-12	0-0	0-0	4-6-10	2	12	3	2	1	1	28
34 Ryan Childress		0-1	0-0	3-4	1-2-3	2	3	0	0	0	0	6
TEAM					2-0-2							
Totals		28-66	7-22	17-23	15-25-40	19	80	17	13	2	9	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-33 36.4%	2nd Half: 16-33 48.5%	Game: 42.4%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-11 27.3%	2nd Half: 4-11 36.4%	Game: 31.8%
F Throw %	1st Half: 9-10 90.0%	2nd Half: 8-13 61.5%	Game: 73.9%

Officials: Tom Eades, Doug Sirmons, Tracy Woodson
Technicals: Florida-Team.
Attendance: 24,011

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Florida	42	34	76
Tennessee	36	44	80

Game #16

#19 **Tennessee** (13-3, 4-1) **88**

Mississippi State (11-8, 1-5) **65**

7:00 p.m. (CST) • Jan. 25, 2006 • Humphrey Coliseum • Starkville, Mississippi

Tennessee 13-3, 4-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	5-10	0-0	3-4	3-8-11	4	13	5	6	1	2	25
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	2-4	0-1	3-4	1-6-7	4	7	3	1	0	3	22
01 Major Wingate	c	3-5	0-0	2-2	3-1-4	4	8	0	1	0	0	16
05 Chris Lofton	g	3-8	2-6	0-0	0-2-2	3	8	1	1	0	2	27
32 C.J. Watson	g	8-10	3-4	0-0	1-3-4	3	19	5	2	0	4	28
02 JaJuan Smith		4-7	2-4	1-3	1-2-3	1	11	0	2	0	0	23
03 Stanley Asumnu		5-8	0-0	2-2	0-4-4	2	12	1	0	0	0	20
11 Eddie DeBro		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
15 Jordan Howell		1-3	1-3	2-2	0-0-0	2	5	0	1	0	0	12
21 Jordan Smith		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
24 Tanner Wild		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
30 Ben Bosse		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
34 Ryan Childress		2-6	1-4	0-0	1-1-2	2	5	2	0	0	0	18
TEAM												
Total		33-63	9-23	13-17	10-30-40	25	88	17	15	1	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 17-33 51.5%	2nd Half: 16-30 53.3%	Game: 52.4%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-10 40.0%	2nd Half: 5-13 38.5%	Game: 39.1%
F Throw %	1st Half: 6-6 100%	2nd Half: 7-11 63.6%	Game: 76.5%

Mississippi State 11-8, 1-5		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
23 Charles Rhodes	f	4-8	0-0	7-7	4-3-7	3	15	0	1	2	3	30
44 Jamont Gordon	f	5-13	0-2	5-10	4-2-6	5	15	2	4	0	1	27
05 Jamall Edmondson	g	5-13	3-8	2-2	1-1-2	3	15	1	1	0	1	28
22 Dietric Slater	g	2-8	1-5	1-1	1-6-7	1	6	2	3	2	1	31
24 Reginald Delk	g	3-10	1-6	1-2	1-2-3	2	8	1	1	1	0	31
01 Richard Delk		1-4	0-3	0-2	1-1-2	1	2	3	4	0	0	24
20 Michael Boler		0-4	0-3	0-0	1-3-4	0	0	0	3	0	0	7
25 Wesley Morgan		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
30 Bernard Rimmer		0-1	0-0	0-2	0-1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
40 Vernon Goodridge		1-3	0-0	2-4	2-2-4	0	4	0	0	0	0	13
TEAM					5-0-5							
Totals		21-64	5-27	18-30	20-22-42	16	65	9	17	5	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 10-34 29.4%	2nd Half: 11-30 36.7%	Game: 32.8%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 2-14 14.3%	2nd Half: 3-13 23.1%	Game: 18.5%
F Throw %	1st Half: 7-11 63.6%	2nd Half: 11-19 57.9%	Game: 60.0%

Officials: Tom Lopes, Doug Shows, Tony Turner.
Technicals: None.
Attendance: 9,839

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	44	44	88
Mississippi State	29	36	65

Game #17

South Carolina (11-9, 2-5) **65**

#19 **Tennessee** (14-3, 5-1) **81**

5:00 p.m. (EST) • Jan. 28, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

South Carolina 11-9, 2-5		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
23 Dwayne Day	f	4-9	3-5	0-0	2-0-2	2	11	1	0	1	0	21
33 Brandon Wallace	f	2-4	1-2	0-0	0-1-1	4	5	1	2	1	1	24
14 Antoine Tisby	c	2-5	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	1	4	0	1	2	0	19
01 Tre Kelley	g	5-12	1-7	0-2	1-1-2	3	11	5	2	0	0	35
21 Tarence Kinsey	g	4-12	2-8	2-2	1-5-6	3	12	5	3	1	0	39
02 Stephen McDowell		1-5	1-5	0-0	0-2-2	0	3	3	2	0	1	17
04 Bryce Sheldon		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	2	1	0	0	0	5
10 Rocky Trice		4-6	1-2	0-0	1-2-3	2	9	0	0	0	1	18
34 Renaldo Balkman		4-9	0-1	0-0	3-3-6	3	8	4	1	3	1	22
TEAM					3-3-6							
Totals		27-63	9-30	2-4	12-18-30	18	65	20	11	8	4	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 11-28 39.3%	2nd Half: 16-35 45.7%	Game: 42.9%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-16 25.0%	2nd Half: 5-14 35.7%	Game: 30.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 2-2 100%	2nd Half: 0-2 0.0%	Game: 50.0%

Tennessee 14-3, 5-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	5-10	0-0	3-4	4-8-12	2	13	0	5	1	0	28
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	3-5	0-1	1-4	2-4-6	1	7	3	1	1	0	34
01 Major Wingate	c	3-4	0-0	0-0	2-3-5	2	6	1	2	2	0	18
05 Chris Lofton	g	7-15	4-11	5-5	2-3-5	1	23	3	0	1	5	34
32 C.J. Watson	g	4-6	1-2	2-2	0-5-5	0	11	3	0	0	2	33
02 JaJuan Smith		2-12	1-7	4-6	2-2-4	0	9	3	2	0	0	24
03 Stanley Asumnu		5-8	0-1	0-0	4-0-4	1	10	4	0	0	1	17
15 Jordan Howell		1-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	2	1	0	0	0	7
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
TEAM					2-0-2							
Totals		30-62	6-23	15-21	18-25-43	9	81	18	11	5	8	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-30 40.0%	2nd Half: 18-32 56.3%	Game: 48.4%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 2-11 18.2%	2nd Half: 4-12 33.3%	Game: 26.1%
F Throw %	1st Half: 7-10 70.0%	2nd Half: 8-11 72.7%	Game: 71.4%

Officials: Ted Valentine, Joe Lindsay, Tracy Woodson
Technicals: South Carolina-Brandon Wallace.
Attendance: 20,068

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
South Carolina	28	37	65
Tennessee	33	48	81

Game #18

Vanderbilt (12-6, 3-4) **62**

#13 **Tennessee** (15-3, 6-1) **69**

7:30 p.m. (EST) • Feb. 1, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Vanderbilt 12-6, 3-4		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
04 Derrick Byars	f	5-8	2-4	0-0	1-6-7	5	12	3	3	0	0	24
22 DeMarre Carroll	f	8-12	0-0	0-0	7-5-12	4	16	1	3	0	3	37
33 Julian Terrell	f	6-8	0-0	0-3	2-8-10	5	12	4	1	1	0	19
01 Mario Moore	g	2-11	0-6	0-0	0-2-2	1	4	2	0	0	1	28
32 Shan Foster	g	3-12	1-7	0-0	0-3-3	1	7	2	3	0	0	37
03 Alex Gordon		0-1	0-1	2-2	0-3-3	0	2	4	5	0	0	11
20 Dan Cage		3-4	1-2	0-0	0-2-2	0	7	1	1	1	0	20
42 Davis Nwankwo		1-1	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	3	2	2	0	0	1	16
54 Ted Skuchas		0-2	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	3	0	0	0	0	0	8
TEAM					1-1-2	1						
Totals		28-59	4-20	2-5	12-31-43	23	62	19	16	2	5	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-27 55.6%	2nd Half: 13-32 40.6%	Game: 47.5%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-7 42.9%	2nd Half: 1-13 7.7%	Game: 20.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 0-0 0.0%	2nd Half: 2-5 40.0%	Game: 40.0%

Tennessee 15-3, 6-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	3-9	0-0	2-4	4-7-11	1	8	0	3	1	2	31
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	3-7	0-3	4-6	3-9-12	2	10	3	1	0	1	32
01 Major Wingate	c	5-6	0-0	6-8	2-1-3	3	16	3	2	0	0	21
05 Chris Lofton	g	2-8	1-4	2-2	2-1-3	3	7	2	1	0	0	29
32 C.J. Watson	g	3-11	1-3	4-5	0-1-1	2	11	5	0	1	0	36
02 JaJuan Smith		2-7	2-7	4-6	0-0-0	0	10	0	1	0	1	27
03 Stanley Asumnu		3-8	0-0	1-1	0-2-2	1	7	3	0	0	2	17
15 Jordan Howell		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
34 Ryan Childress		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
TEAM					1-0-1							
Totals		21-58	4-18	23-32	12-21-33	12	69	17	8	2	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 10-33 30.3%	2nd Half: 11-25 44.0%	Game: 36.2%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-10 10.0%	2nd Half: 3-8 37.5%	Game: 22.2%
F Throw %	1st Half: 6-9 66.7%	2nd Half: 17-23 73.9%	Game: 71.9%

Officials: Doug Shows, Doug Sirmons, Brian Forte
Technicals: Vanderbilt-Team.
Attendance: 17,609

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Vanderbilt	33	29	62
Tennessee	27	42	69

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

Game #19

Mississippi (13-8, 3-5) **72**

#13 **Tennessee** (16-3, 7-1) **86**

3:00 p.m. (EST) • Feb. 4, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Mississippi 13-8, 3-5		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
32 Jermey Parnell	f	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	2	0	0	1	0	0	13
44 Dwayne Curtis	c	4-7	0-0	2-5	2-7-9	2	10	0	4	2	1	28
10 Todd Abernethy	g	6-10	2-5	0-1	0-1-1	0	14	4	3	0	1	30
12 Clarence Sanders	g	8-19	7-11	6-8	0-1-1	3	29	0	5	0	1	34
20 Bam Doyne	g	1-6	0-1	0-0	1-5-6	4	2	5	4	2	2	26
03 Brian Smith		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	2	0	2	1	0	0	13
11 Londrick Nolen		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
15 Brandon Patterson		2-3	2-3	0-0	2-2-4	1	6	2	1	1	0	22
25 Trey Hampton		1-4	0-0	0-0	3-1-4	3	2	1	1	0	0	14
33 Mike Smith		4-4	0-0	1-3	3-4-7	2	9	3	1	1	1	16
TEAM					0-1-1							
Totals		26-54	11-20	9-17	11-26-37	20	72	17	22	6	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 9-24 37.5%	2nd Half: 17-30 56.7%	Game: 48.1%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 6-12 50.0%	2nd Half: 5-8 62.5%	Game: 55.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 3-6 50.0%	2nd Half: 6-11 54.5%	Game: 52.9%

Tennessee 16-3, 7-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	3-7	0-0	0-0	0-4-4	2	6	1	2	1	2	28
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	1-5	0-2	2-3	0-3-3	4	4	7	3	0	0	22
01 Major Wingate	c	4-6	0-0	2-6	3-2-5	1	10	3	1	0	1	26
05 Chris Lofton	g	4-10	1-6	3-3	2-2-4	3	12	4	1	0	1	31
32 C.J. Watson	g	6-14	3-3	3-4	1-3-4	1	18	6	1	0	3	31
02 JaJuan Smith		7-14	2-6	1-2	2-5-7	2	17	2	2	0	4	28
03 Stanley Asumnu		7-9	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	2	14	0	1	1	0	15
11 Eddie DeBro		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12 Justin Jackson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15 Jordan Howell		1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	3	2	1	0	0	9
30 Ben Bosse		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	2-2	3-0-3	0	2	0	0	0	1	7
TEAM					1-1-1	1						
Totals		33-67	7-19	13-20	12-21-33	17	86	25	12	2	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 19-32 59.4%	2nd Half: 14-35 40.0%	Game: 49.3%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-8 50.0%	2nd Half: 3-11 27.3%	Game: 36.8%
F Throw %	1st Half: 4-9 44.4%	2nd Half: 9-11 81.8%	Game: 65.0%

Officials: Tony Greene, Bruce Benedict, Rick Crawford
Technicals: Tennessee-Team.
Attendance: 18,602

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Mississippi	27	45	72
Tennessee	46	40	86

Game #20

#11 **Tennessee** (17-3, 8-1) **75**

Kentucky (15-8, 5-4) **67**

7:00 p.m. (EST) • Feb. 7, 2006 • Rupp Arena • Lexington, Kentucky

Tennessee 17-3, 8-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	2-6	0-0	0-0	2-8-10	3	4	1	2	2	2	27
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	1-4	0-2	0-0	3-4-7	1	2	2	0	1	1	30
01 Major Wingate	c	4-6	0-0	4-6	1-0-1	3	12	0	1	0	0	26
05 Chris Lofton	g	11-18	7-10	2-2	1-6-7	1	31	0	3	0	0	32
32 C.J. Watson	g	3-11	0-5	4-4	3-2-5	2	10	4	2	0	3	33
02 JaJuan Smith		3-9	2-6	0-3	1-2-3	3	8	3	3	0	1	23
03 Stanley Asumnu		2-3	0-0	1-2	1-1-2	1	5	1	1	0	1	17
15 Jordan Howell		0-2	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	4	0	0	0	7
34 Ryan Childress		1-2	1-1	0-0	1-0-1	1	3	1	0	0	0	5
TEAM					0-2-2							
Totals		27-61	10-26	11-17	13-25-38	16	75	16	12	3	8	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-29 51.7%	2nd Half: 12-32 37.5%	Game: 44.3%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 7-14 50.0%	2nd Half: 3-12 25.0%	Game: 38.5%
F Throw %	1st Half: 2-4 50.0%	2nd Half: 9-13 69.2%	Game: 64.7%

Kentucky 15-8, 5-4		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
13 Bobby Perry	f	2-6	1-3	0-0	4-2-6	0	5	2	4	0	1	24
33 Randolph Morris	c	9-14	0-0	2-5	2-5-7	3	20	0	0	2	2	35
04 Rajon Rondo	g	5-12	0-3	1-4	1-4-5	2	11	6	3	0	1	37
22 Patrick Sparks	g	1-2	0-1	0-0	0-1-1	1	2	1	0	0	0	15
32 Joe Crawford	g	5-9	1-3	1-3	1-3-4	4	12	1	2	0	1	33
01 Brandon Stockton		1-4	1-2	0-0	0-1-1	0	3	0	1	0	0	13
02 Ravi Moss		5-9	1-4	3-3	1-2-3	3	14	2	2	0	2	23
23 Sheray Thomas		0-4	0-0	0-0	1-2-3	3	0	1	2	0	0	16
42 Rekalin Sims		0-2	0-0	0-0	2-0-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
TEAM					1-3-4					1		
Totals		28-62	4-16	7-15	13-23-36	16	67	13	15	2	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-29 51.7%	2nd Half: 13-33 39.4%	Game: 45.2%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-5 60.0%	2nd Half: 1-11 9.1%	Game: 25.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 3-8 37.5%	2nd Half: 4-7 57.1%	Game: 46.7%

Officials: Tony Greene, Karl Hess, Tom Eades
Technicals: None.
Attendance: 24,184

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	39	36	75
Kentucky	36	31	67

Game #21

#11 **Tennessee** (18-3, 9-1) **83**

Georgia (14-9, 4-6) **78**

4:00 p.m. (EST) • Feb. 11, 2006 • Stegeman Coliseum • Athens, Georgia

Tennessee 18-3, 9-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	5-9	0-1	5-6	4-2-6	4	15	3	2	0	0	28
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	3-6	0-1	3-6	0-4-4	2	9	8	4	0	3	32
01 Major Wingate	c	1-2	0-0	1-1	1-4-5	4	3	0	5	1	0	23
05 Chris Lofton	g	10-14	9-12	4-4	1-5-6	4	33	3	3	0	1	33
32 C.J. Watson	g	3-6	1-3	4-4	0-5-5	2	11	2	4	1	0	33
02 JaJuan Smith		3-8	0-5	4-6	1-3-4	1	10	1	2	0	2	27
03 Stanley Asumnu		1-2	0-0	0-0	1-3-4	0	2	0	0	0	0	15
15 Jordan Howell		0-2	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TEAM					2-1-3				2			
Totals		26-49	10-24	21-27	10-27-37	18	83	17	23	2	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 14-27 51.9%	2nd Half: 12-22 54.5%	Game: 53.1%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 6-12 50.0%	2nd Half: 4-12 33.3%	Game: 41.7%
F Throw %	1st Half: 4-5 80.0%	2nd Half: 17-22 77.3%	Game: 77.8%

Georgia 14-9, 4-6		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
00 Younes Idrissi	f	7-10	0-0	0-0	3-1-4	4	14	0	1	0	0	21
44 Dave Bliss	c	3-5	0-0	3-4	0-1-1	2	9	0	2	2	1	21
02 Sundiata Gaines	g	6-10	1-2	0-0	2-5-7	2	13	0	0	0	1	31
14 Levi Stukes	g	6-12	5-6	3-5	1-4-5	4	20	2	4	0	3	29
33 Mike Mercer	g	5-14	1-5	1-1	0-1-1	3	12	2	3	1	1	30
03 Kevin Brophy		0-3	0-3	0-0	0-1-1	3	0	1	1	0	2	16
15 Steve Newman		0-1	0-1	2-2	0-1-1	0	2	1	1	0	1	17
25 Channing Toney		0-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0	7
30 Terrance Woodbury	2-3	0-1	0-1	1-0-1	0	4	1	1	0	0	8	
31 Billy Humphrey		2-7	0-2	0-1	3-0-3	2	4	3	0	0	2	20
TEAM					0-1-1							
Totals		31-67	7-21	9-14	10-15-25	20	78	11	13	3	11	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-29 41.4%	2nd Half: 19-38 50.0%	Game: 46.3%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-9 11.1%	2nd Half: 6-12 50.0%	Game: 33.3%
F Throw %	1st Half: 4-5 80.0%	2nd Half: 5-9 55.6%	Game: 64.3%

Officials: Tom Lopes, Pat Adams, John Goble
Technicals: Tennessee-Andre Patterson
Attendance: 10,523

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	38	45	83
Georgia	29	49	78

Game #22

Auburn (10-12, 2-9) **89**

#8 **Tennessee** (19-3, 10-1) **105**

7:30 p.m. (EST) • Feb. 15, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Auburn 10-12. 2-9		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03 Josh Dollard	f	4-8	0-1	1-1	1-0-1	2	9	1	1	0	3	25
32 Korvotney Barber	f	6-11	0-0	2-2	3-4-7	3	14	0	4	0	0	30
21 Rasheem Barrett	g	5-7	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	2	11	2	4	0	0	22
23 Quantez Robertson	g	5-7	5-6	2-2	0-4-4	4	17	4	7	1	1	35
33 Ronny LeMelle	g	6-13	3-4	4-4	4-5-9	3	19	5	2	0	0	39
01 Frank Tolbert		5-8	2-3	1-1	2-3-5	3	13	5	1	0	0	21
15 Brett Howell		1-3	1-3	1-2	0-1-1	0	4	5	0	0	0	18
42 Joey Cameron		0-0	0-0	2-2	0-2-2	2	2	0	1	1	0	10
TEAM					1-0-1				1			
Totals		32-57	12-19	13-14	11-19-30	19	89	22	21	2	4	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 8-21 38.1%	2nd Half: 24-36 66.7%	Game: 56.1%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-9 44.4%	2nd Half: 8-10 80.0%	Game: 63.2%
Throw %	1st Half: 5-6 83.3%	2nd Half: 8-8 100%	Game: 92.9%

Tennessee 19-3, 10-1		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	5-9	0-1	5-7	4-3-7	1	15	2	0	1	2	29
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	2-5	2-4	0-0	1-3-4	2	6	4	2	0	2	28
01 Major Wingate	c	5-8	0-0	2-2	3-2-5	2	12	3	1	0	1	25
05 Chris Lofton	g	8-12	7-11	2-2	0-1-1	1	25	0	1	0	2	31
32 C.J. Watson	g	4-7	2-4	8-9	0-3-3	1	18	8	2	0	2	33
02 JaJuan Smith		6-10	5-8	2-2	2-0-2	1	19	1	0	0	0	21
03 Stanley Asumnu		5-10	0-0	0-2	1-1-2	2	10	3	0	0	1	21
15 Jordan Howell		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	2	0	1	1	0	1	7
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	1	0	1	5
TEAM					0-0-0				1			
Totals		35-62	16-29	19-24	11-14-25	12	105	22	9	1	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-31 48.4%	2nd Half: 20-31 64.5%	Game: 56.5%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-12 41.7%	2nd Half: 11-17 64.7%	Game: 55.2%
F Throw %	1st Half: 7-8 87.5%	2nd Half: 12-16 75.0%	Game: 79.2%

Officials: Gary Maxwell, Antinio Petty, Carlos Reyes
Technicals: Tennessee-Major Wingate.
Attendance: 17,814

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Auburn	25	64	89
Tennessee	42	63	105

Game #23

#8 **Tennessee** (19-4, 10-2) **79**

Alabama (15-9, 8-4) **92**

3:00 p.m. (CST) • Feb. 18, 2006 • Coleman Coliseum • Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Tennessee 19-4, 10-2		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	6-14	0-1	3-6	3-4-7	4	15	1	4	1	2	30
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	2-5	1-2	0-0	0-2-2	4	5	1	0	0	2	24
01 Major Wingate	c	2-6	0-0	1-4	3-2-5	3	5	2	5	0	0	28
05 Chris Lofton	g	7-15	6-8	2-2	1-3-4	3	22	1	1	0	2	36
32 C.J. Watson	g	4-12	0-3	5-5	2-0-2	2	13	2	2	0	2	36
02 JaJuan Smith		4-10	3-8	0-2	0-1-1	4	11	1	0	0	1	17
03 Stanley Asumnu		4-6	0-0	0-0	2-1-3	3	8	2	1	0	3	20
15 Jordan Howell		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
34 Ryan Childress		0-2	0-1	0-0	1-1-2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
TEAM					3-2-5							
Totals		29-70	10-23	11-19	15-16-31	24	79	10	14	1	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 14-35 40.0%	2nd Half: 15-35 42.9%	Game: 41.4%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-10 40.0%	2nd Half: 6-13 46.2%	Game: 43.5%
F Throw %	1st Half: 9-13 69.2%	2nd Half: 2-6 33.3%	Game: 57.9%

Alabama 15-9, 8-4		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
21 Evan Brock	f	1-3	0-0	0-0	1-4-5	3	2	1	3	1	1	20
35 Richard Hendrix	f	5-7	0-0	6-8	3-7-10	3	16	0	2	1	0	31
33 Jermareo Davidson	c	6-12	0-0	5-5	4-10-14	2	17	3	0	2	4	39
04 Brandon Hollinger	g	2-2	1-1	4-4	0-0-0	1	9	2	4	0	0	20
22 Ronald Steele	g	6-11	1-5	9-9	0-5-5	1	22	9	6	0	1	40
12 Alonzo Gee		5-7	2-3	2-2	1-1-2	2	14	0	3	0	1	21
23 Jean Felix		4-12	2-10	2-2	1-1-2	2	12	1	1	0	1	29
TEAM					0-2-2							
Totals		29-54	6-19	28-30	10-30-40	14	92	16	19	4	8	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 19-25 76.0%	2nd Half: 10-29 34.5%	Game: 53.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 6-10 60.0%	2nd Half: 0-9 0.0%	Game: 31.6%
F Throw %	1st Half: 13-13 100%	2nd Half: 15-17 88.2%	Game: 93.3%

Officials: J.B. Caldwell, Mike Nance, John Goble
Technicals: None.
Attendance: 15,194

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	41	38	79
Alabama	57	35	92

Game #24

#10 **Tennessee** (20-4, 11-2) **76**

#12 **Florida** (22-5, 8-5) **72**

8:00 p.m. (EST) • Feb. 22, 2006 • O'Connell Center • Gainesville, Florida

Tennessee 20-4, 11-2		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22 Andre Patterson	f	4-10	0-0	0-1	4-3-7	3	8	2	3	2	1	34
23 Dane Bradshaw	f	6-13	3-6	0-1	2-2-4	3	15	5	2	0	4	28
01 Major Wingate	c	5-6	0-0	1-1	0-0-0	4	11	0	3	1	0	21
05 Chris Lofton	g	4-10	4-9	4-4	1-4-5	1	16	1	1	0	3	36
32 C.J. Watson	g	6-11	1-1	0-0	0-6-6	3	13	3	4	0	0	35
02 JaJuan Smith		3-6	3-5	0-0	0-0-0	2	9	3	2	0	0	25
03 Stanley Asumnu		2-4	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	1	4	0	2	0	1	14
15 Jordan Howell		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
34 Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2
TEAM					2-4-6				1			
Totals		30-60	11-21	5-7	9-22-31	19	76	15	19	3	9	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-29 51.7%	2nd Half: 15-31 48.4%	Game: 50.0%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 6-12 50.0%	2nd Half: 5-9 55.6%	Game: 52.4%
F Throw %	1st Half: 0-1 0.0%	2nd Half: 5-6 83.3%	Game: 71.4%

Florida 22-5, 8-5		FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
02 Corey Brewer	f	7-19	2-6	1-3	1-3-4	1	17	4	6	1	1	33
13 Joakim Noah	f	7-11	0-0	6-8	3-6-9	1	20	2	2	5	5	26
42 Al Horford	c	3-8	0-1	4-6	2-3-5	1	10	2	0	2	2	26
11 Taurean Green	g	2-8	0-2	0-0	0-2-2	2	4	3	4	0	1	36
15 Walter Hodge	g	0-0	0-0	2-3	0-1-1	1	2	3	2	0	1	26
04 Adrian Moss		0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	1	0	0	0	0	2	10
12 Lee Humphrey		1-5	1-4	2-2	1-2-3	1	5	1	1	0	0	20
32 Chris Richard		7-7	0-0	0-0	3-3-6	2	14	0	1	0	0	18
33 David Huertas		0-0	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
TEAM					1-1-2							
Totals		27-58	3-13	15-22	13-23-36	10	72	15	16	8	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 16-33 48.5%	2nd Half: 11-25 44.0%	Game: 46.6%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-6 16.7%	2nd Half: 2-7 28.6%	Game: 23.1%
F Throw %	1st Half: 7-9 77.8%	2nd Half: 8-13 61.5%	Game: 68.2%

Officials: Ted Valentine, Bruce Benedict, Doug Sirmons
Technicals: None.
Attendance: 12,322

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	36	40	76
Florida	40	32	72

TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

Game #25

Arkansas (19-8, 8-6) **73**

#10 **Tennessee** (20-5, 11-3) **69**

1:00 p.m. (EST) • Feb. 25, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Arkansas 19-8, 8-6			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
21	Charles Thomas	f	4-8	0-0	3-3	3-3-6	3	11	0	1	0	0	27
51	Steven Hill	c	1-2	0-0	0-0	1-5-6	3	2	0	0	1	0	13
10	Ronnie Brewer	g	4-12	1-4	0-0	0-5-5	1	9	9	3	1	1	36
15	Eric Ferguson	g	4-11	3-7	1-2	2-2-4	0	12	5	3	0	0	34
24	Jonathon Modica	g	6-13	0-3	2-2	3-3-6	4	14	5	1	0	0	35
04	Dontell Jefferson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-3-3	2	0	4	1	1	0	16
05	Darian Townes		7-9	0-0	1-2	0-6-6	3	15	1	1	1	0	23
33	Vincent Hunter		4-8	0-0	2-3	6-1-7	3	10	0	0	1	0	16
	TEAM					1-1-2							
	Totals		30-63	4-14	9-12	16-29-45	19	73	24	10	5	1	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 16-35 45.7%	2nd Half: 14-28 50.0%	Game: 47.6%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 2-7 28.6%	2nd Half: 2-7 28.6%	Game: 28.6%
F Throw %	1st Half: 2-2 100%	2nd Half: 7-10 70.0%	Game: 75.0%

Tennessee 20-5, 11-3			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Andre Patterson	f	5-11	0-2	0-0	1-3-4	3	10	3	0	2	0	34
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	2-6	0-3	2-2	0-1-1	3	6	0	0	0	1	23
01	Major Wingate	c	1-4	0-0	1-4	0-1-1	4	3	2	1	1	0	25
05	Chris Lofton	g	3-7	2-5	4-4	1-1-2	1	12	2	1	0	2	33
32	C.J. Watson	g	5-10	3-4	4-5	0-4-4	1	17	3	1	0	2	35
02	JaJuan Smith		3-7	2-5	3-4	1-6-7	2	11	5	2	0	2	28
03	Stanley Asumnu		3-5	0-0	1-2	1-1-2	1	7	1	0	0	1	14
15	Jordan Howell		1-3	1-3	0-0	0-0-0	1	3	0	1	0	0	5
34	Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	TEAM					1-1-2							
	Totals		23-53	8-22	15-21	5-19-24	16	69	16	6	3	8	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 14-29 48.3%	2nd Half: 9-24 37.5%	Game: 43.4%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-10 40.0%	2nd Half: 4-12 33.3%	Game: 36.4%
F Throw %	1st Half: 10-11 90.9%	2nd Half: 5-10 50.0%	Game: 71.4%

Officials: Gary Maxwell, Joe Lindsay, Tim Clougherty
Technicals: Arkansas-Darian Townes
Attendance: 22,543

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Arkansas	36	37	73
Tennessee	42	27	69

Game #26

Kentucky (19-10, 9-6) **80**

#11 **Tennessee** (20-6, 11-4) **78**

8:00 p.m. (EST) • March 1, 2006 • Thompson-Boling Arena • Knoxville, Tennessee

Kentucky 19-10, 9-6			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
13	Bobby Perry	f	1-1	1-1	0-0	0-3-3	0	3	0	1	0	0	10
10	Lukasz Obrzut	c	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
01	Brandon Stockton	g	2-6	2-4	0-0	1-2-3	2	6	3	2	0	1	22
02	Ravi Moss	g	3-7	1-3	2-3	1-3-4	2	9	2	4	0	3	35
22	Patrick Sparks	g	2-8	2-6	0-0	0-4-4	1	6	5	2	0	0	39
04	Rajon Rondo		8-9	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	2	16	8	4	1	1	27
23	Sheray Thomas		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
32	Joe Crawford		3-5	3-5	2-3	0-2-2	4	11	1	2	0	0	20
33	Randolph Morris		8-9	0-0	6-10	3-6-9	4	22	0	1	2	1	23
42	Rekalin Sims		1-2	0-0	3-3	0-3-3	1	5	0	2	0	0	15
	TEAM					2-0-2				1			
	Totals		29-48	9-19	13-19	7-26-33	17	80	19	19	3	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 14-29 48.3%	2nd Half: 15-19 78.9%	Game: 60.4%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-9 33.3%	2nd Half: 6-10 60.0%	Game: 47.4%
Throw %	1st Half: 7-9 77.8%	2nd Half: 6-10 60.0%	Game: 68.4%

Tennessee 20-6, 11-4			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Andre Patterson	f	2-4	0-0	0-0	3-5-8	2	4	3	3	1	0	30
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	3-9	0-3	1-2	3-2-5	3	7	4	2	0	0	26
01	Major Wingate	c	5-9	0-0	0-1	2-2-4	3	10	1	3	0	0	27
05	Chris Lofton	g	5-9	3-7	2-2	0-1-1	1	15	2	0	0	2	33
32	C.J. Watson	g	5-15	3-7	2-3	0-1-1	4	15	5	3	0	2	32
02	JaJuan Smith		6-7	3-4	0-1	1-0-1	1	15	1	1	1	2	24
03	Stanley Asumnu		3-7	0-0	0-1	1-1-2	1	6	1	0	0	2	17
15	Jordan Howell		2-3	2-3	0-0	0-0-0	0	6	1	1	0	0	8
34	Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
	TEAM					1-2-3							
	Totals		31-63	11-24	5-10	11-14-25	16	78	19	13	2	8	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 19-36 52.8%	2nd Half: 12-27 44.4%	Game: 49.2%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-13 38.5%	2nd Half: 6-11 54.5%	Game: 45.8%
F Throw %	1st Half: 2-4 50.0%	2nd Half: 3-6 50.0%	Game: 50.0%

Officials: Tony Greene, Ted Valentine, Rick Crawford
Technicals: None.
Attendance: 24,108

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Kentucky	38	42	80
Tennessee	45	33	78

Game #27

#11 **Tennessee** (21-6, 12-4) **68**

Vanderbilt (16-11, 7-9) **59**

1:00 p.m. (CST) • March 4, 2006 • Memorial Gym • Nashville, Tennessee

Tennessee 21-6, 12-4			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Andre Patterson	f	4-7	0-1	2-2	0-4-4	4	10	2	0	4	5	29
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	2-5	2-4	0-0	0-2-2	2	6	1	1	0	2	30
01	Major Wingate	c	4-6	0-0	2-2	4-2-6	4	10	0	5	1	0	16
05	Chris Lofton	g	8-18	2-11	3-4	1-4-5	1	21	0	0	0	1	31
32	C.J. Watson	g	2-9	1-4	6-6	3-2-5	1	11	3	6	0	1	31
02	JaJuan Smith		1-8	1-7	0-0	2-6-8	1	3	3	1	0	1	31
03	Stanley Asumnu		1-5	0-0	2-2	3-3-6	1	4	2	2	0	0	17
11	Eddie DeBro		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
15	Jordan Howell		1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
30	Ben Bosse		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
34	Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
	TEAM					3-2-5							
	Totals		23-59	7-28	15-16	16-26-42	15	68	11	15	5	11	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 7-25 28.0%	2nd Half: 16-34 47.1%	Game: 39.0%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-9 11.1%	2nd Half: 6-19 31.6%	Game: 25.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 6-6 100%	2nd Half: 9-10 90.0%	Game: 93.8%

Vanderbilt 16-11, 7-9			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	DeMarre Carroll	f	5-11	0-0	0-0	5-6-11	1	10	2	1	0	0	34
32	Shan Foster	f	5-16	5-10	0-0	0-6-6	2	15	3	1	2	0	35
33	Julian Terrell	f	2-5	0-0	6-7	3-2-5	4	10	3	2	1	0	27
01	Mario Moore	g	1-6	0-5	2-2	0-1-1	3	4	2	1	0	1	20
04	Derrick Byars	g	2-9	1-6	3-4	1-1-2	2	8	1	5	0	1	31
03	Alex Gordon		3-6	2-3	0-0	1-1-2	1	8	0	2	0	0	19
11	Alan Metcalfe		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
14	Aubrey Hammond		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
20	Dan Cage		0-3	0-2	2-2	0-0-0	1	2	1	3	0	1	19
54	Ted Skuchas		1-1	0-0	0-2	1-1-2	2	2	0	1	0	0	9
	TEAM					3-0-3							
	Totals		19-58	8-26	13-17	14-20-34	16	59	12	16	3	3	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-32 37.5%	2nd Half: 7-26 26.9%	Game: 32.8%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-13 38.5%	2nd Half: 3-13 23.1%	Game: 30.8%
F Throw %	1st Half: 2-4 50.0%	2nd Half: 11-13 84.6%	Game: 76.5%

Officials: Tony Greene, Doug Sirmons, J.B. Caldwell
Technicals: None.
Attendance: 14,316

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	21	47	68
Vanderbilt	31	28	59

Game #28

South Carolina (17-14) **79**

#14 **Tennessee** (21-7) **71**

12 p.m. (CST) • March 10, 2006 • Gaylord Entertainment Center • Nashville, Tenn.

South Carolina 17-14			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
14	Antoine Tisby	f	2-3	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	2	4	1	2	0	0	9
21	Tarence Kinsey	f	5-9	1-2	3-4	0-4-4	2	14	2	3	0	3	37
33	Brandon Wallace	c	4-4	0-0	0-0	3-2-5	4	8	2	2	3	3	35
01	Tre Kelley	g	7-13	2-5	9-10	0-5-5	0	25	8	4	0	0	39
10	Rocky Trice	g	3-7	0-1	2-2	1-0-1	3	8	2	0	0	3	27
04	Bryce Sheldon		0-2	0-1	2-2	0-1-1	0	2	2	1	0	0	15
20	Keving Palacios		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
23	Dwayne Day		1-2	0-1	0-0	1-1-2	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
34	Renaldo Balkman		6-10	0-0	4-9	4-3-7	2	16	2	2	1	3	27
	TEAM					1-2-3				2			
	Totals		28-51	3-10	20-27	10-18-28	14	79	21	16	4	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 14-31 45.2%	2nd Half: 14-20 70.0%	Game: 54.9%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 2-7 28.6%	2nd Half: 1-3 33.3%	Game: 30.0%
F Throw %	1st Half: 3-5 60.0%	2nd Half: 17-22 77.3%	Game: 74.1%

Tennessee 21-7			FG	3PT	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Andre Patterson	f	1-4	0-0	0-0	4-5-9	3	2	2	3	1	3	29
23	Dane Bradshaw	f	4-8	2-5	0-0	2-1-3	3	10	4	2	0	1	31
01	Major Wingate	c	2-3	0-0	4-5	3-2-5	1	8	0	5	2	1	25
05	Chris Lofton	g	4-14	3-9	1-2	3-1-4	3	12	2	3	0	1	34
32	C.J. Watson	g	8-12	3-5	4-5	0-1-1	5	23	2	4	0	2	34
02	JaJuan Smith		3-8	3-8	0-0	2-1-3	3	9	2	1	0	0	20
03	Stanley Asumnu		3-4	0-0	1-2	0-1-1	0	7	0	3	0	1	18
15	Jordan Howell		0-3	0-2	0-0	0-1-1	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
34	Ryan Childress		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	TEAM					1-2-3	1						
	Totals		25-56	11-29	10-14	15-15-30	22	71	12	21	3	9	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 10-22 45.5%	2nd Half: 15-34 44.1%	Game: 44.6%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-9 33.3%	2nd Half: 8-20 40.0%	Game: 37.9%
F Throw %	1st Half: 4-7 57.1%	2nd Half: 6-7 85.7%	Game: 71.4%

Officials: Ted Valentine, J.B. Caldwell, Mike Nance
Technicals: Tennessee-Team.
Attendance: 19,547

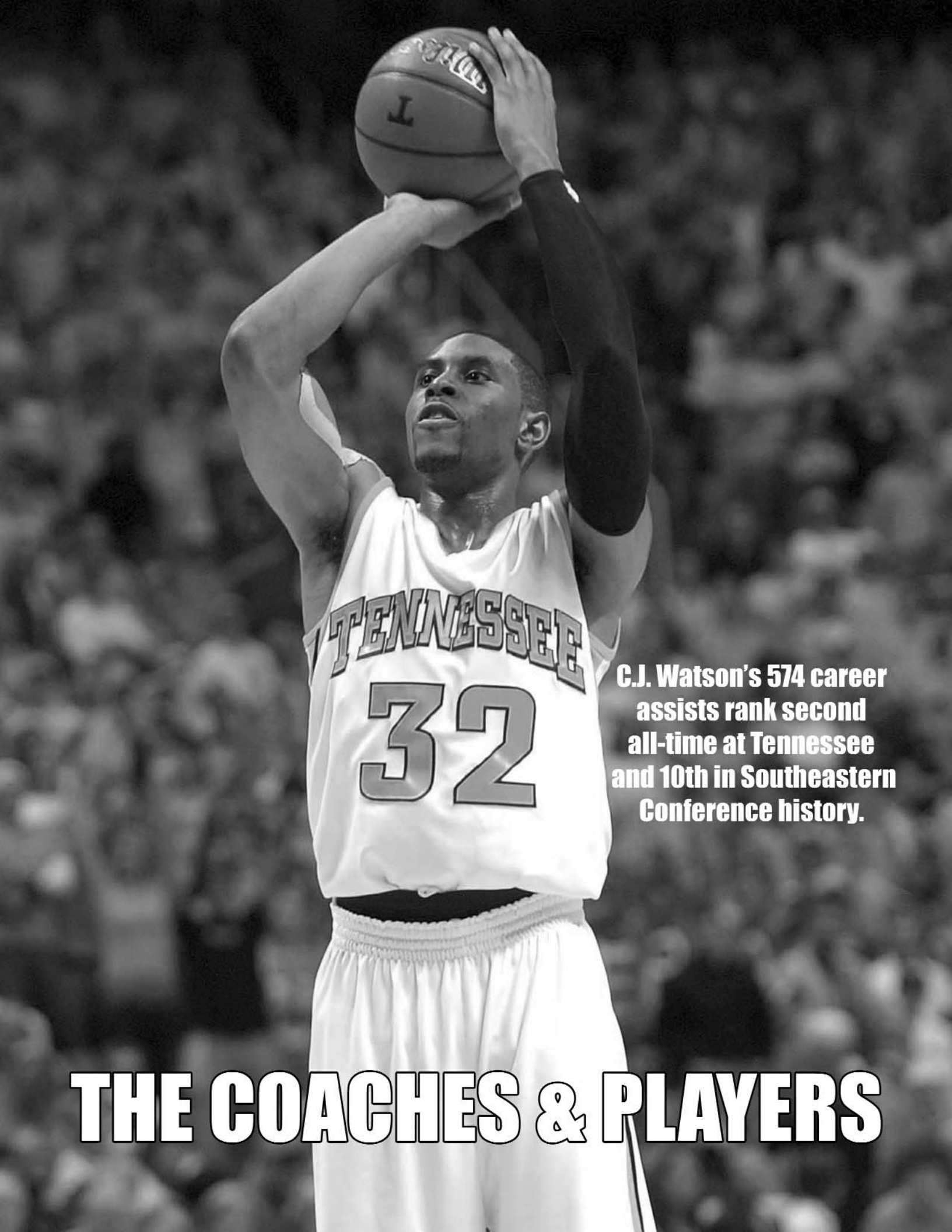
Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
South Carolina	33	46	79
Tennessee	27	44	71

Game #29

Winthrop (23-7)

#14 **Tennessee** (21-7)

TBA • March 16, 2006 • Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, North Carolina



C.J. Watson's 574 career assists rank second all-time at Tennessee and 10th in Southeastern Conference history.

THE COACHES & PLAYERS

In 14 seasons as a head coach Bruce Pearl has...

- Led his teams to 13 20-win seasons
- Averaged more than 24* wins per season
- Made 12 NCAA Tournament appearances
- Won 18 NCAA Tournament games
- Captured 9 regular season or postseason league titles
- Won 6 league coach of the year awards
- Coached 5 league players of the year
- Won 79.1* percent of his games, the third-best percentage currently in Division I
- Won 200 games at one school faster than any other coach in NCAA history
- Won 300 games faster than all but one active coach
- Reached postseason play in 13 of 14 seasons as a head coach

* entering 2005-06 season

What They Are Saying

"Awesome, awesome guy. He's an unbelievable worker as well. He hit the ground running. Sometimes you have to talk to him on the move. What's impressed me is that he has surrounded himself with guys who are very committed to recruiting and incredibly motivated."

— Coach Pat Summitt, University of Tennessee

"Bruce is a great hire. Personally, I'm glad to see him in the league because he brings a style of play that's needed. We've gotten to be a half-court conference since Rick (Pitino) left our league and Billy (Donovan) and Tubby (Smith) started playing more half court. Our teams need that experience when they go out of the league and in the postseason.''

"You can't simulate that (style of play) in practice. It hits you right between the eyes, boy, when you experience it.''

— C.M. Newton, Basketball Hall of Famer

"I like him. I like his personality. He is upbeat and he is very enthused to be here which is exciting. Kids will pick up on that automatically. Teams that have a great deal of success have a coach that they can relate to so that they have a reason not only to play well for themselves but for their coach as well because they have a love and respect for him. And I think that is the kind of man that he is and that is what is going to happen with him and his players as they grow together."

— Dale Ellis, Former Vols and NBA star

"He's a basketball junkie. He loves the game. He loves to talk about it. He lives it, breathes it and eats it, and those are the type of people you want running your program. And besides all that, he's a good guy."

— Ernie Grunfeld, Washington Wizards President of Basketball Operations



Bruce Pearl

Head Coach
Boston College 1982

When University of Tennessee Director of Athletics Mike Hamilton began the search for a new basketball coach, he cited the desire to hire an established coach who, over a period of time, had proven success in leading his teams to championships.

Hamilton found his man, naming Bruce Pearl as Tennessee's 17th basketball coach on March 28, 2005, in a mid-court ceremony at Thompson-Boling Arena.

"Bruce Pearl possesses all the criteria for success in men's basketball at the University of Tennessee," Hamilton said. "He is a proven, nationally-recognized winner. His teams are disciplined, mentally tough and exciting to watch. He is a relentless recruiter, a passionate promoter of his program, an excellent floor coach and a staunch family man."

After just one season at Tennessee Pearl has proven each of those statements true.

Entering his first year in Knoxville, the Vols were picked to finish fifth out of six teams in the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division. With a team that had lost two of its top players from the previous season and just one new player added to the rotation, it was no wonder expectations were low in Knoxville.

At the end of the regular season, Tennessee had won 21 games and won the SEC East championship with a 12-4 league record. UT swept its regular season series against South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Vanderbilt. Along the way the Vols were ranked as high as No. 8 by the Associated Press.

Fans around East Tennessee took notice of what was happening at Thompson-Boling Arena. With six home crowds of at least 20,000, UT's average attendance in 2006 was 17.954 — the third largest average in school history. In SEC games, Tennessee averaged 20,796 fans per game.

Along the way the honors began pouring in. CBS Sportsline.com named Pearl its national coach of the year. He was also named USBWA All-District IV Coach of the Year and is a finalist for the Phelan Award for national coach of the year.

Pearl's success has been described as magical. At Division II Southern Indiana he led the Screaming Eagles to nine NCAA Division II Tournaments, including a national championship in 1995 and a runner-up finish in 1994. He then moved to mid-major UW-Milwaukee, where he directed the Panthers to the Sweet 16 of the 2005 NCAA Tournament with wins over major conference powers Alabama and Boston College.

A ringing endorsement from a Tennessee basketball legend who is considered one of the top front office talents in the NBA didn't hurt either.

"He's a basketball junkie," former UT All-America and current president of basketball operations for the Washington Wizards Ernie Grunfeld said about Pearl. "He loves the game. He loves to talk about it. He lives it, breathes it and eats it, and those are the type of people you want running your program. And besides all that, he's a good guy."

In 14 seasons as a head coach, Pearl has compiled a 338-91 career record. His teams have received postseason bids 13 times and have advanced to the Sweet 16 of NCAA Tournaments seven times. Five times he has been named league coach of the year and 13 times his teams have registered at least 20 wins, including a school record 26 at UW-Milwaukee in 2005.

During the 2005 campaign he became one of the fastest coaches in NCAA history to reach the 300-win milestone. Pearl needed just 382 games to reach the 300-win mark, which was second only to Roy Williams (Kansas and North Carolina) who needed 370 games.

Pearl's success has been a result of hard work, both by the coaches and players. As a staff, the coaches quickly developed a reputation in Tennessee for working from sunrise until late into the night, leaving no stone unturned while working to improve the program. On the court, the coaches expect 100 percent effort from the players.

"One thing I can tell you about our basketball team is that they will play hard, they will play unselfishly and people are going to know we never got outworked by our opponent," Pearl said.

Pearl brings an exciting style of play, both for fans and players alike. In 2006 his Tennessee team has led the Southeastern Conference in scoring offense (81.3 ppg), assists (17.21 apg), steals (10.21 spg), turnover margin (+5.50), assist/turnover ratio (1.33) and 3-point field goals made (8.89 3pg).

"We're going to pressure the ball for 40 minutes. We'll do it 94 feet most of the time. The talent level will dictate how fast we make people go or how slow we make them go. There are two ways to control tempo — pressure defense or holding the ball. I just prefer pressure defense."

Head Coaching Record

Year	School	Overall		Conference		Postseason
1992-93	Southern Indiana	22-7	.759	14-4	.788	NCAA II Tournament (1-1)
1993-94	Southern Indiana	28-4	.875	16-2	.889	NCAA II Tournament (4-1) *National Runner-up*
1994-95	Southern Indiana	29-4	.879	15-3	.833	NCAA II Tournament (6-0) *National Champion*
1995-96	Southern Indiana	25-4	.862	18-2	.900	NCAA II Tournament (1-1) *Sweet 16*
1996-97	Southern Indiana	23-5	.821	16-4	.800	NCAA II Tournament (0-1)
1997-98	Southern Indiana	27-6	.818	14-5	.736	NCAA II Tournament (1-1) *Sweet 16*
1998-99	Southern Indiana	26-6	.813	18-4	.818	NCAA II Tournament (2-1) *Sweet 16*
1999-00	Southern Indiana	25-6	.806	17-3	.850	NCAA II Tournament (1-1) *Sweet 16*
2000-01	Southern Indiana	26-4	.867	18-2	.900	NCAA II Tournament (0-1)
2001-02	UW-Milwaukee	16-13	.552	11-5	.688	
2002-03	UW-Milwaukee	24-8	.750	13-3	.813	NCAA Tournament (0-1)
2003-04	UW-Milwaukee	20-11	.645	13-3	.813	National Invitation Tournament (1-1)
2004-05	UW-Milwaukee	26-6	.813	14-2	.875	NCAA Tournament (2-1) *Sweet 16*
2005-06	Tennessee	21-7	.750	12-4	.750	NCAA Tournament
Totals	14th season	338-91	.788			NCAA Tournament (18-11)

at Southern Indiana: 231-46 (9 years) **at UW-Milwaukee:** 86-38 (4 years)

Major Success As A Head Coach

In today's world of instant gratification, Pearl wasted no time in turning both Tennessee and UW-Milwaukee into some of the most successful programs in the nation.

In his four years at UWM, the Panthers won a pair of Horizon League regular season titles (2004 and 2005) and two Horizon League Tournament championships (2003 and 2005). They advanced to Division I postseason play for the first time in school history, making two NCAA Tournament appearances (2003 and 2005) and receiving an NIT bid (2004).

In 2005, Pearl led the Panthers to the most successful season in school history. In addition to winning regular season and conference tournament titles, UWM set a school record with 26 wins and made its first-ever appearance in the Sweet 16 with NCAA Tournament wins over Alabama and Boston College.

During the Panthers' run to the Sweet 16, Pearl received national acclaim including being named a finalist for the Jim Phelan National Coach of the Year honor with fellow coaches Bruce Weber of Illinois, Roy Williams of North Carolina, Skip Prosser of Wake Forest, Al Skinner of Boston College and Tubby Smith of Kentucky.

Honors consistently were bestowed upon Pearl and his players. Three times in his four seasons at UWM he was named the Horizon League Coach of the Year. In 2004, Dylan Page was named the Horizon League Player of the Year while Ed McCants repeated the feat in 2005. Four players (Clay Tucker in 2002 and 2003, Page in 2003 and 2004, McCants 2005 and Joah Tucker in 2005) earned first team all-conference honors under Pearl's direction.

Pearl's 51-13 (.797) record in Horizon League games gives him the best winning percentage of any coach in league history. He became the second-fastest coach to win 300 career games with a 73-56 win over Loyola Jan. 8, 2005. Only North Carolina's Roy Williams reached the milestone faster.

Other milestones under Pearl's guidance included the school's first win over a ranked team and first wins over teams from the SEC, Big Ten, Big East, Conference USA, WAC and Mountain West.

One of the most recognizable sports figures in the city, fans took notice of UWM's success under Pearl. In each of his four seasons in Milwaukee, the Panthers drew record-setting crowds for their home games.

First Job Nets National Championship

A coach whose career had taken him to stops as an assistant in major conferences such as the Big East, Pac-10 and Big Ten conferences, Pearl's first head coaching opportunity came at Southern Indiana, a Division II school located in Evansville, Ind.

Inheriting a team that had won only 10 games the previous season, Pearl's first squad at USI posted a 22-7 record and advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

That first season was a precursor of things to come for the school. Over the next nine seasons the Screaming Eagles posted a 231-46 (.834) record and won four Great Lakes Valley Conference championships. They received NCAA Division II Tournament bids in each of Pearl's nine seasons and advanced to the Sweet 16 six times.

USI experienced unparalleled postseason success under Pearl's guidance. The Screaming Eagles won a national championship in 1995 and finished second in the NCAA II Tournament in 1994. In nine postseason appearances, USI won 16 NCAA Tournament games.

After winning the national championship in 1995, Pearl was named the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Division II Coach of the Year. Two times (1993 and 1994) he was named the Great Lakes Valley Conference Coach of the Year, and in 2000, he garnered NABC Great Lakes Region Coach of the Year honors.

Late in the 2000 season, Pearl earned his 200th career win, making him the fastest coach in NCAA history to reach the 200-victory mark at one school. Needing just 240 games, Pearl easily broke the record of 250 that had been held by North Carolina State's Everett Case.

In 2001, Pearl's final season at USI, the Screaming Eagles earned their sixth No. 1 national ranking over a seven-season period while posting a 26-4 record and winning the Great Lakes Valley Conference championship.

While at USI, Pearl's successes were not limited to the basketball court. Serving a dual role as head basketball coach and coordinator of athletic development, Pearl helped spur record growth in the school's booster organizations. Pearl's marketing efforts and success on the basketball court led to the sellout of every chairback seat for USI home games and helped raise more than $500,000 annually for the university.

Humble Beginnings

Pearl's coaching career began at his alma mater, Boston College, as a student assistant coach to the legendary Dr. Tom Davis. After 14 seasons seated to the right of Davis, the 32-year-old Pearl embarked on his own head coaching career.

"It's a great country, isn't it, when you can start from really humble beginnings, work hard, believe passionately and accomplish just about anything," Pearl said. "I've worked my whole life to get to a place like Tennessee."

Pearl's first break came while an undergraduate at Boston College when Davis offered him a position of student assistant in 1978. In 1981, the Eagles won the Big East Conference championship and reached the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament. The following season, BC advanced to the Elite Eight.

When Davis moved on to Stanford in 1982, Pearl joined his staff as an assistant coach and then, at the age of 23, was promoted to associate head coach for the Cardinal. While in Palo Alto, Calif., they ended a streak of 20 consecutive losing seasons with a 19-12 overall record in 1983-84, laying the groundwork for a resurgence in Stanford basketball. During this time they recruited four players who were drafted by the NBA, including Todd Lichti who finished his career as Stanford's all-time leading scorer with 2,336 career points.

After four seasons on the West Coast, Pearl followed Davis to the University of Iowa in 1986. Over the course of the next six seasons, the Hawkeyes received five NCAA Tournament berths while compiling a 129-63 overall record. In 1987, the Hawkeyes recorded a 30-5 record and advanced to the Elite Eight before falling to UNLV. The following year, Pearl was recognized as one of the top Division I assistants in the country by *Basketball Weekly* while helping direct the Hawkeyes to the Sweet 16.

His six seasons in Iowa City helped produce 11 NBA draft picks for the Hawkeyes, including Brad Lohaus, Kevin Gamble, B.J. Armstrong, Roy Marble and Acie Earl.

These 14 seasons with Davis provided Pearl a foundation of basketball knowledge that enabled him to move on to a head coach position.

"I feel like I had a great mentor in Dr. Tom Davis," Pearl said. "If you're any good at anything, chances are you had somebody pretty good who taught you how to do it. I had the pleasure of being by his side for 14 years. He was a brilliant defensive strategist. He taught me how to press and how to run, but, more than anything else, he taught me how to work with young people, how to be patient, how to be disciplined and how to get the most out of them, even more than they ever dreamed they could have."

A native of Boston, Mass., Pearl received his bachelor's degree in business administration from Boston College in 1982, graduating cum laude. His wife, Kim, is the niece of college coaching great Norm Sloan. In May 2005 she received a nursing degree from UW-Milwaukee. The couple has two daughters, Jacqui and Leah, and two sons, Steven and Michael.

2005-06 Updates

Recruiting Class Ranked Among Best In Nation

Pearl's first recruiting class was one of the best in the SEC and ranked among the top 10 in the nation ... Wayne Chism, Duke Crews, Marques Johnson and Josh Tabb each signed with the Vols in the November signing period.

UT Returns To National Rankings

Tennessee returned to the national rankings for the first time since February 2001. The Vols have been ranked as high as No. 8 by the Associated Press and No. 10 by ESPN/USA Today.

Large Crowds Coming To See Vols

Tennessee averaged 17,954 fans at Thompson-Boling Arena this season, the third-highest average in school history. The number ranks second only to Kentucky in the SEC.

Vols Go Out Of Their Way To Thank Fans

Following Tennessee's season-opening win over East Tennessee State, the coaches and players went into the stands and onto the concourse of Thompson-Boling Arena to thank the fans for their support.

Giving Back To The Community Important

Pearl has taken the Volunteers' nickname to heart, as his team has been very active in community service ... Some of the events include: at the Susan G. Komen Race For The Cure the team was at the finish line handing out flowers to the participants, hosting the Boys & Girls Club, walked in the Knoxville Walk for Diabetes, participated in the Children's Miracle Network telethon.

Pearl Is Popular On Speaking Circuit

In his first six months on the job he had more than 200 public speaking engagements ... His speaking appearances have included several student groups, civic organizations and clubs throughout Knoxville and the state of Tennessee.

A Family Affair

Pearl's daughter Jacqui sang the national anthem before four of UT's games this season.

2005-06 Honors

National Coach of the Year
(*The Sporting News*)
National Coach of the Year
(CBS SportsLine.com)
Phelan Award Finalist
USBWA All-District IV Coach of the Year
SEC Coach of the Year
(CBS SportsLine.com)
SEC Coach of the Year (CollegeInsider.com)
SEC Coach of the Year
(ESPN.com's Pat Forde)



Tony Jones

Associate Head Coach
Concordia University 1993

In his first season as an associate head coach at Tennessee and his fifth on Bruce Pearl's coaching staff is Tony Jones.

Jones' responsibilities include recruiting and scheduling for the Vols. An instrumental force in landing some of the influential players in his teams' successes, he has made in-roads to signing a number of the top players in the nation. In his first season at Tennessee, Jones helped the Vols sign a recruiting class that was ranked among the top 10 classes in the nation.

"We are very fortunate to have one of the top assistants in the nation here at the University of Tennessee," Pearl said. "Tony Jones played collegiately in the state of Tennessee and has a wealth of knowledge and experience that make him a highly effective recruiter. I am excited to have him on our bench."

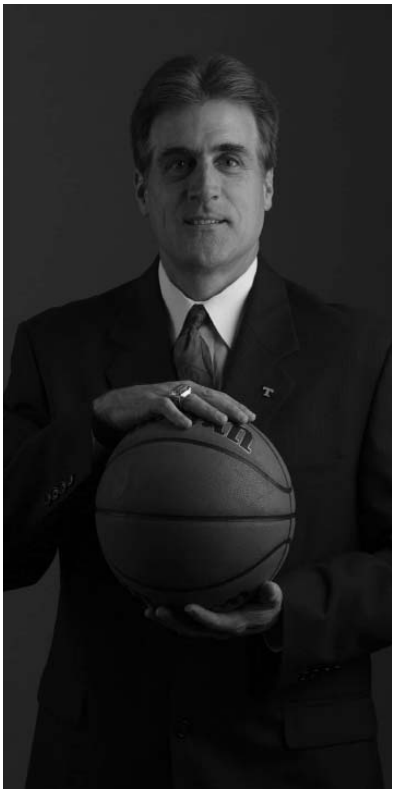
Jones came to Tennessee with 12 seasons of collegiate coaching experience after spending four seasons at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) as an associate head coach. Prior to joining the UWM staff, Jones spent five seasons at Toledo and three years at Buffalo.

In 12 seasons of collegiate coaching, Jones has helped direct his teams to five postseason tournament bids, including a pair of NCAA Tournament appearances. In 2005 UWM advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament with wins over Alabama and Boston College.

Jones got his first taste of coaching at his alma mater, Detroit Southwestern High School, where he served as an assistant varsity coach while also serving as head junior varsity coach from 1986-91. During this time he coached future NBA stars Jalen Rose (Toronto Raptors), Howard Eisley (Utah Jazz) and Voshon Lenard (Denver Nuggets), leading them to the mythical *USA Today* national title in 1991. He also served as head coach of Team AAU Michigan for three years (1991-93), posting a 35-1 record and capturing two AAU state championships.

Jones was an all-city star at Southwestern and went on to earn all-conference honors at Fisk University in Nashville. He received a bachelor of arts degree in health care administration from Concordia (Mich.) University.

Jones and his wife, Pam, have four children - Tony II, Jamaal, Mercedes and Porscha. His brother, Bill, is a former member of the NBA's New Jersey Nets and played professionally in Italy.



Scott Edgar

Assistant Coach
Pittsburgh-Johnstown 1978

A veteran coach whose teams have advanced to postseason play 17 times in his 25-year collegiate coaching career, Scott Edgar is in his first season as an assistant coach at Tennessee.

"From the very minute I got the job at Tennessee, I wanted to add someone to the coaching staff with a wealth of experience, great recruiting contacts in the southeast and who would challenge my thinking in coaching," head coach Bruce Pearl said. "Scott Edgar was my choice from the very beginning. It is my hope that Scott can help us do at Tennessee what he helped Nolan (Richardson) do at Arkansas."

Well-respected for his recruiting abilities and his on-court coaching, Edgar has recruited or coached 17 NBA players. He came to Tennessee after spending three years at UAB, where he helped direct the Blazers to a 65-34 record. In his three years in Birmingham, UAB won the 2004 Conference USA championship, made two NCAA Tournament appearances, including a trip to the 2004 Sweet 16, and advanced to the quarterfinals of the 2003 National Invitation Tournament.

A familiar face in the southeast, Edgar served as an assistant coach at Arkansas for six seasons (1985-91). In 1990 the Razorbacks posted a 30-5 overall record in winning the Southwest Conference regular season and tournament championships and advanced to the Final Four in Denver, Colo.

Edgar broke into the coaching ranks as an assistant coach at the New Mexico Military Institute in 1978. Three years later he made the jump to NCAA Division I coaching when he joined Nolan Richardson's coaching staff at the University of Tulsa. During the five-year span (1980-85) that Edgar and Richardson were at Tulsa, the Golden Hurricane made three NCAA Tournament appearances and won the 1981 National Invitation Tournament championship.

After following Richardson to Arkansas, Edgar got his first head coaching opportunity in 1991 when he was named the head coach at Murray State University. In his four seasons (1991-95) in Murray, Ky., he led the Racers to a 79-40 record that included two NCAA Tournament appearances and an NIT bid.

A native of Penn Hills, Pa., Edgar returned to the Pittsburgh, Pa., area when he was named head coach at Duquesne. In three seasons he was able to return the Dukes to competitiveness.

In 1999 Edgar joined Billy Tubbs' staff at TCU where he was head of basketball operations for two seasons.

Edgar earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in sociology from Pittsburgh-Johnstown in 1978. A standout on both the basketball court and baseball diamond while in college, his accomplishments earned him induction into the Penn Hills High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Edgar and his wife, Elaine, have one son, Scott William.



Jason Shay

Assistant Coach
Iowa 1995

Jason Shay is in his fifth season assisting Bruce Pearl, including his first year at Tennessee.

"I've known Jason since he was a player at the University of Iowa," Pearl said. "He has played in this system and believes in this style of basketball. He was an overachiever as a player and has continued to work hard as an assistant coach. His experienced have helped him make tremendous contributions to our players' individual development."

Shay, who is responsible for recruiting and scouting in addition to some administrative duties, came to Tennessee after spending four years on Pearl's staff at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM). He was an assistant coach for UWM's two NCAA Tournament appearances after spending his first two seasons as the director of basketball operations for the Panthers.

Shay served as an assistant basketball coach and assistant sports information director at Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., before rejoining Pearl at UWM. He helped lead Mercyhurst to a top five ranking in the NCAA Division II Great Lakes Region while assisting with the on-court coaching strategies. Shay also was responsible for individual workouts, the team's strength program, film exchange, scouting reports and monitoring the academic progress of the student-athletes.

Shay played four seasons at the University of Iowa under the tutelage of Dr. Tom Davis. During that time, the Hawkeyes advanced to two NCAA Tournaments and won the 1992 San Juan Shootout. It was in Iowa City where Shay and Pearl first crossed paths as Pearl was an assistant at Iowa from 1986-92.

He earned a bachelor's degree in Health Promotion at Iowa and a master's degree in Sports Management in 1998 from Western Illinois University.

Shay and his wife, Jana, have a daughter, Peija, and a son, Joah.



Ken Johnson

Director of Basketball Operations
Albertson College of Idaho 1993

In his first season at Tennessee and seventh year as a member of Bruce Pearl's staff is Ken Johnson.

Johnson and Pearl first joined forces in 1999 when Johnson came to the University of Southern Indiana as an assistant coach and the relationship continued when Pearl moved to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. In the seven seasons Johnson has assisted Pearl, their teams have combined to post a 158-55 record.

"It is really important to surround young people with good role models," Pearl said. "Ken is a very hard worker who genuinely cares about these kids. He has been with me the last six years and he knows how I expect things to be done."

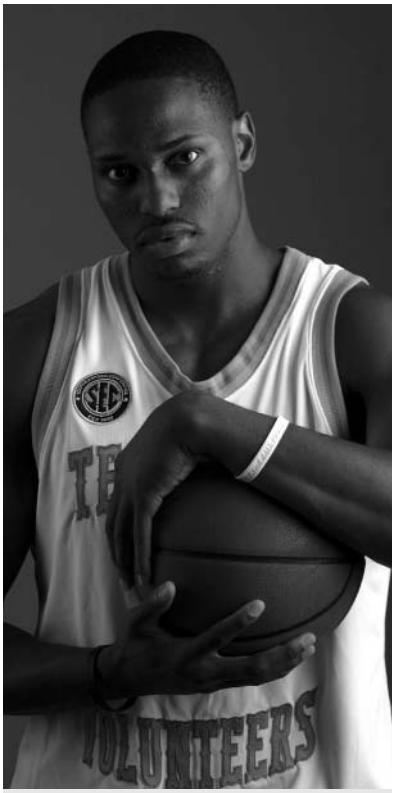
At UWM, Johnson was responsible for working with the Panther post players while also scouting opponents. During those four seasons the Panthers posted an 86-38 record and received three postseason invitations, including a trip to the 2005 NCAA Tournament in which they advanced to the Sweet 16.

Johnson spent two seasons at USI as an assistant coach where he was responsible for video breakdown, scouting of opposing teams and individual player development. During those two seasons the Screaming Eagles posted a 51-10 record, won a Great Lakes Valley Conference championship and made two NCAA Division II Tournament appearances. USI earned No. 1 rankings in both of Johnson's seasons and advanced to the Sweet 16 of the 2000 NCAA Tournament.

Prior to joining Pearl's coaching staff at USI, Johnson spent two seasons as an assistant coach of the Idaho Stampede of the Continental Basketball Association.

Johnson began his collegiate playing career at Southwestern Oregon Community College where he named to the all-freshman team in his rookie season. He later earned all-region honors as a sophomore at Salt Lake Community College. He then moved to Albertson College of Idaho where he garnered NAIA District II All-Conference honors. A 1993 graduate of Albertson College with a degree in physical education, he helped lead Albertson to a NAIA District II championship and played for the 1991 NAIA National Championship.

Johnson and his wife, Amber, were married in September 2005. He has a daughter, Makenzee Ruth.



3 Stanley Asumnu

G/F • 6-5 • 215 • Sr.

Houston, Texas

(Westbury Christian Academy / Hargrave Military Academy)

Asumnu Lately

Named to the SEC Good Works Team ... A career 39.7 percent shooter entering this season, he is connecting on 50.5 percent of his field goals this season ... Has scored 231 points in 28 games this season after scoring 63 points in 26 games last year ... Is averaging 7.4 ppg., on 55.7% shooting, 2.8 rpg, and 1.4 apg off the bench ... Came off the bench for the first time this season and scored 12 points, grabbed four rebounds and had zero turnovers at Mississippi State (1/25/06) ... Scored 13 points and tied a career-high with three steals at LSU (1/14/06) ... Scored 15 points versus Alabama A&M (12/2705) ... Left his home-state victorious after scoring seven points, grabbing five rebounds and passing out two assists at Texas (12/17/05) ... Grabbed a season-high six rebounds against Murray State (11/30/05) ... Scored a career-high 18 points in the season-opener against East Tennessee State (11/18/05) ... Recorded a career-high tying five assists versus Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05) ... One of the most experienced Vols this season ... Only C.J. Watson has played more career games than Asumnu.

Noting Asumnu

In a poll of his teammates, was voted "Best Athlete" and "Hardest Working" on the squad ... Has recorded a vertical jump of 42-inches ... An extremely hard worker who can be found at all times in the gym working on his game ... Lists Colin Powell as the most famous person he has met ... Models his game after Miami Heat star Dwayne Wade ... Lists his career highlight as scoring the game winning basket to beat Ole Miss as a freshman ... Wears No. 3 jersey because it symbolizes the three Bible verses (Psalms 23, Matthew 6:33 and James 4:6) he reads every day and before every game.

Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 18 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 6 Two times; last at Vanderbilt (3/4/06)
Career 7 vs. Arkansas (2/11/04)

Assists
Season 5 vs. Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05)
Career 5 Two times; last vs. Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05)

Blocks
Season 1 Eight times; last vs. Mississippi (2/4/06)
Career 1 13 times; last vs. Mississippi (2/4/06)

Steals
Season 3 Two times; last at Alabama (2/18/06)
Career 3 Four times; last at Alabama (2/18/06)

Field Goals Made
Season 8 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 16 at Memphis (1/18/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 1 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Career 2 vs. VMI (11/25/02)

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 2 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Career 5 vs. VMI (11/25/02)

Free Throws Made
Season 4 vs. Appalachian State (12/6/05)
Career 5 at Kentucky (2/25/04)

Free Throws Attempted
Season 6 vs. Lipscomb (12/29/05)
Career 12 at Kentucky (2/25/04)

Minutes
Season 27 at Memphis (1/18/06)
Career 28 at Kentucky (2/25/04)

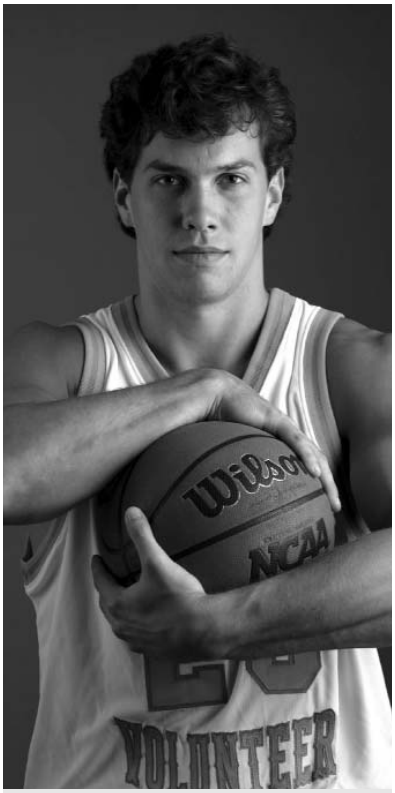
2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State	f	8-11	1-2	1-3	3-2-5	2	18	2	1	0	1	21
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette	f	5-8	0-1	1-4	1-0-1	3	11	1	0	1	0	22
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky	f	3-5	0-1	0-0	0-2-2	3	6	5	1	0	0	16
Nov. 30	1-Murray State	f	3-9	0-0	1-2	2-4-6	0	7	0	2	1	0	23
Dec. 6	Appalachian State	f	4-7	0-0	4-5	1-1-2	2	12	3	2	0	0	26
Dec. 17	at Texas	f	2-8	0-1	3-4	2-3-5	0	7	2	1	0	1	26
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State	f	3-8	0-1	0-0	2-3-5	1	6	2	3	1	0	23
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M	f	7-12	0-1	1-2	0-2-2	1	15	3	1	1	1	24
Dec. 29	Lipscomb	f	5-9	0-0	1-6	1-2-3	1	11	1	2	1	2	22
Jan. 4	South Alabama	f	3-4	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	2	6	1	1	0	0	14
Jan. 8	at South Carolina	f	1-4	0-0	0-2	0-2-2	0	2	0	1	0	0	18
Jan. 11	Georgia	f	4-6	0-0	1-2	1-2-3	1	9	2	3	1	1	19
Jan. 14	at LSU	f	5-11	0-0	3-4	2-2-4	1	13	0	3	1	3	24
Jan. 18	at Memphis	f	5-16	0-0	1-2	2-3-5	2	11	3	1	0	1	27
Jan. 21	Florida	f	0-3	0-0	1-2	1-0-1	0	1	0	3	0	0	12
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State		5-8	0-0	2-2	0-4-4	2	12	1	0	0	0	20
Jan. 28	South Carolina		5-8	0-1	0-0	4-0-4	1	10	4	0	0	1	17
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt		3-8	0-0	1-1	0-2-2	1	7	3	0	0	2	17
Feb. 4	Mississippi		7-9	0-0	0-0	1-1-2	2	14	0	1	1	0	15
Feb. 7	at Kentucky		2-3	0-0	1-2	1-1-2	1	5	1	1	0	1	17
Feb. 11	at Georgia		1-2	0-0	0-0	1-3-4	0	2	0	0	0	0	15
Feb. 15	Auburn		5-10	0-0	0-2	1-1-2	2	10	3	0	0	1	21
Feb. 18	at Alabama		4-6	0-0	0-0	2-1-3	3	8	2	1	0	3	20
Feb. 22	at Florida		2-4	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	1	4	0	2	0	1	14
Feb. 25	Arkansas		3-5	0-0	1-2	1-1-2	1	7	1	0	0	1	14
March 1	Kentucky		3-7	0-0	0-1	1-1-2	1	6	1	0	0	2	17
March 4	at Vanderbilt		1-5	0-0	2-2	3-3-6	1	4	2	2	0	0	17
March 10	3-South Carolina		3-4	0-0	1-2	0-1-1	0	7	0	3	0	1	18
March 16	4-Winthrop												

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2003	28-6	345	12.3	29-92	.315	5-25	.200	18-31	.581	23-24-47	1.7	31-0	22	34	0	13	81	2.9
2004	29-11	490	16.9	62-136	.456	1-7	.143	27-64	.422	27-44-71	2.4	51-1	42	46	3	24	152	5.2
2005	26-1	213	8.2	27-69	.391	1-4	.250	8-18	.444	11-16-27	1.0	25-0	9	20	2	10	63	2.4
2006	28-15	539	19.3	102-200	.510	1-8	.125	26-52	.500	33-49-82	2.9	35-0	43	35	8	23	231	8.3
Totals	111-33	1587	14.3	220-497	.443	8-44	.182	79-165	.479	94-133-227	2.0	142-1	116	135	13	70	527	4.7



23 Dane Bradshaw

G • 6-4 • 200 • Jr.
Memphis, Tenn.
(White Station HS)

Bradshaw Lately

Named to SI.com's All-Glue Team on Feb. 14 ... Doubles as Tennessee's starting power forward and backup point guard ... Has been Tennessee's starting power forward in all 28 of the Vols' games this season .... Second on the team in assists (3.96 apg; 10th in the SEC), and rebounding (5.5 rpg; 16th in the SEC) and is third in steals (1.82 spg; seventh in the SEC) and blocks (0.36 bpg) ... His assist-to-turnover ratio of 2.71 is leading the SEC ... Stole the ball with 18 seconds left and had the game winning finger-roll at Florida (2/22/06) finished the game with 15 points, five assists and four steals... Had his second double-double of the season scoring 10 and grabbing 12 rebounds versus Vanderbilt (2/1/06) ... Returned to his hometown of Memphis (1/18/06) and had a career-game leading the team in points (21), rebounds (12), assists (4) and steals (5) ... Passed out a career-high tying eight assists and grabbed eight rebounds against Georgia (1/11/06) ... Scored 14 points (10 in the second half; including a game-sealing 3-pointer with 30 seconds left) and led the team in rebounds (7) and assists (4) in win at South Carolina (1/8/06) ... Registered his first career double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds while also recording a career-high six assists in the season-opener against East Tennessee State (11/19/05).

Noting Bradshaw

In a poll of the Vols, was voted "Most Likely To Become A Coach" ... Second-leading vote getter for "Most Improved" ... Led White Station HS to three state championships ... The 2003 Tennessee Gatorade Player of the Year ... Has had his high school jersey retired ... The youngest of four children, each of which have played basketball on the collegiate level ... Lists Mother Teresa as the most famous person he has met ... Says that his shooting is the most improved part of his game ... A rabid Philadelphia Eagles fan.

Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 21 at Memphis (1/18/06)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 12 Two times; last vs. Vanderbilt (2/1/06)
Career Same

Assists
Season 8 Three times; last at Georgia (2/11/06)
Career Same

Blocks
Season 3 vs. Appalachian State (12/6/05)
Career Same

Steals
Season 5 Two times; last at Memphis (1/18/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Made
Season 9 at Memphis (1/18/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 13 Two times; last at Florida (2/22/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 3 at Florida (2/22/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 6 at Florida (2/22/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Made
Season 7 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Career Same

Free Throws Attempted
Season 8 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Career Same

Minutes
Season 34 vs. South Carolina (1/28/06)
Career Same

2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State	f	3-7	0-2	7-8	2-10-12	3	13	6	6	0	3	28
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette	f	2-4	1-2	2-2	1-5-6	2	7	3	1	0	2	26
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky	f	3-7	1-2	0-0	1-6-7	3	7	3	2	1	5	26
Nov. 30	1-Murray State	f	2-7	1-4	0-0	1-3-4	3	5	2	2	0	2	24
Dec. 6	Appalachian State	f	2-6	0-1	0-0	3-7-10	2	4	6	1	3	1	31
Dec. 17	at Texas	f	1-7	1-4	4-4	2-3-5	3	7	3	0	0	2	30
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State	f	1-4	0-1	0-0	1-3-4	4	2	3	0	0	1	24
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M	f	0-2	0-1	0-0	0-1-1	2	0	6	0	1	1	16
Dec. 29	Lipscomb	f	2-7	0-3	2-3	2-4-6	3	6	3	0	1	1	28
Jan. 4	South Alabama	f	2-5	1-2	1-2	0-5-5	0	6	8	0	0	3	26
Jan. 8	at South Carolina	f	6-11	2-3	0-3	2-5-7	4	14	4	0	0	1	26
Jan. 11	Georgia	f	1-4	0-2	1-3	2-6-8	2	3	8	2	1	1	30
Jan. 14	at LSU	f	3-5	2-3	1-3	2-1-3	4	9	3	3	0	0	26
Jan. 18	at Memphis	f	9-13	1-2	2-4	5-5-10	3	21	4	3	0	5	31
Jan. 21	Florida	f	4-6	0-1	0-1	2-5-7	4	8	4	2	1	3	29
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State	f	2-4	0-1	3-4	1-6-7	4	7	3	1	0	3	22
Jan. 28	South Carolina	f	3-5	0-1	1-4	2-4-6	1	7	3	1	1	0	34
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt	f	3-7	0-3	4-6	3-9-12	2	10	3	1	0	1	32
Feb. 4	Mississippi	f	1-5	0-2	2-3	0-3-3	4	4	7	3	0	0	22
Feb. 7	at Kentucky	f	1-4	0-2	0-0	3-4-7	1	2	2	0	1	1	30
Feb. 11	at Georgia	f	3-6	0-1	3-6	0-4-4	2	9	8	4	0	3	32
Feb. 15	Auburn	f	2-5	2-4	0-0	1-3-4	2	6	4	2	0	2	28
Feb. 18	at Alabama	f	2-5	1-2	0-0	0-2-2	4	5	1	0	0	2	24
Feb. 22	at Florida	f	6-13	3-6	0-1	2-2-4	3	15	5	2	0	4	28
Feb. 25	Arkansas	f	2-6	0-3	2-2	0-1-1	3	6	0	0	0	1	23
March 1	Kentucky	f	3-9	0-3	1-2	3-2-5	3	7	4	2	0	0	26
March 4	at Vanderbilt	f	2-5	2-4	0-0	0-2-2	2	6	1	1	0	2	30
March 10	3-South Carolina	f	4-8	2-5	0-0	2-1-3	3	10	4	2	0	1	31
March 16	4-Winthrop												

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2004	29-5	439	15.1	35-84	.417	6-27	.222	24-41	.585	9-53-62	2.1	61-1	48	41	4	15	100	3.4
2005	30-8	521	17.4	32-80	.400	6-23	.261	19-33	.576	11-57-68	2.3	60-1	57	37	5	24	89	3.0
2006	28-28	763	27.3	75-177	.424	20-70	.286	36-61	.590	43-112-155	5.5	76-0	111	41	10	51	206	7.4
Totals	87-41	1723	19.8	142-341	.416	32-120	.267	79-135	.585	63-222-285	3.3	197-2	216	119	19	90	395	4.5



34 Ryan Childress

F • 6-9 • 250 • Fr.
Cincinnati, Ohio
(Moeller HS)

Childress Lately

A key for the Vols in the paint ... Half of his rebounds this season have come on the offensive end (18-of-36) ... Scored five points and hit his first career three-pointer at Mississippi State (1/25/06) ... Scored a career-high six points while grabbing two rebounds, passing for two assists and blocking two shots versus Alabama A&M (12/27/05) ... Played 14 rugged minutes against Texas (12/17/05) scoring four points and grabbing two rebounds ... Had five points and four rebounds in his first career game against East Tennessee State (11/18/05) ... Scored five points, pulled down three rebounds and had his first two career assists versus Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05).

Noting Childress

Favorite all-time NBA player is former Chicago Bull Bill Wennington ... Models his game after Bill Laimbeer ... Describes his style of play as "physical" ... Earned honorable mention all-state, second team all-district, first team Greater Catholic League of Cincinnati ... Also named to the Cincinnati Enquirer's Boys' Basketball All-Stars Division I first team ... Averaged 16.0 points and 8.7 rebounds per game while leading the Crusaders to a 22-4 record and the Division I state Final Four as a senior ... Helped the Crusaders win a state championship as a sophomore ... Finished his career as the all-time winningest player in Moeller history.

Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 6 vs. Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 4 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Career Same

Assists
Season 2 Three times; last at Mississippi State (1/25/06)
Career Same

Blocks
Season 2 vs. Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
Career Same

Steals
Season 1 Four times; last at Vanderbilt (3/4/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Made
Season 2 Two times; last at Mississippi State (1/25/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 6 at Mississippi State (1/25/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 1 Two times; last at Kentucky (2/7/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 4 at Mississippi State (1/25/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Made
Season 3 Three times; last vs. Florida (1/21/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Attempted
Season 5 vs. Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05)
Career Same

Minutes
Season 18 at Mississippi State (1/25/06)
Career Same

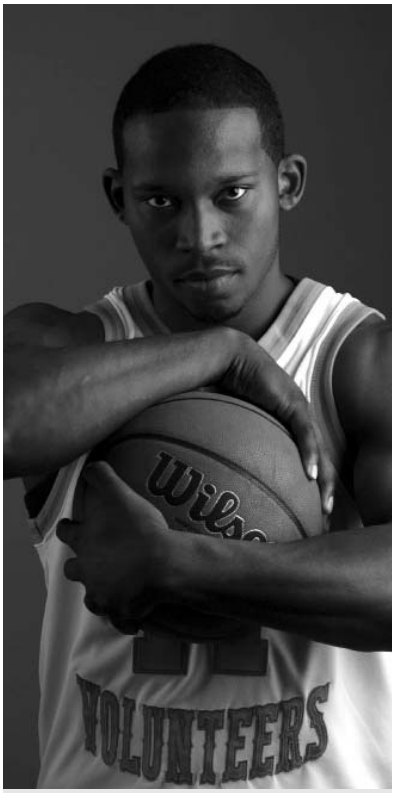
2005-06 Game-By-Game

	Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State	1-1	0-0	3-4	2-2-4	4	5	0	2	0	0	10
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky	1-5	0-2	3-5	2-1-3	1	5	2	0	0	0	15
Nov. 30	1-Murray State	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Dec. 6	Appalachian State	0-0	0-0	0-2	1-0-1	0	0	1	2	0	0	4
Dec. 17	at Texas	1-2	0-0	2-2	1-1-2	5	4	1	0	0	0	14
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-3-3	2	0	1	0	0	0	5
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M	2-2	0-0	2-2	1-1-2	1	6	2	2	2	0	15
Dec. 29	Lipscomb	1-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	2	0	1	0	1	5
Jan. 4	South Alabama	0-2	0-0	1-2	2-1-3	3	1	0	0	0	0	7
Jan. 8	at South Carolina	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	1	0	0	0	5
Jan. 11	Georgia	0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
Jan. 14	at LSU	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jan. 18	at Memphis	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
Jan. 21	Florida	0-1	0-0	3-4	1-2-3	2	3	0	0	0	0	6
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State	2-6	1-4	0-0	1-1-2	2	5	2	0	0	0	18
Jan. 28	South Carolina	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt	0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Feb. 4	Mississippi	0-0	0-0	2-2	3-0-3	0	2	0	0	0	1	7
Feb. 7	at Kentucky	1-2	1-1	0-0	1-0-1	1	3	1	0	0	0	5
Feb. 11	at Georgia	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Feb. 15	Auburn	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	1	0	1	5
Feb. 18	at Alabama	0-2	0-1	0-0	1-1-2	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Feb. 22	at Florida	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2
Feb. 25	Arkansas	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
March 1	Kentucky	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	3
March 4	at Vanderbilt	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	0	0	0	1	5
March 10	3-South Carolina	0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
March 16	4-Winthrop											

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2006	28-0	169	6.0	9-26	.346	2-9	.222	16-23	.696	18-18-36	1.3	33-1	15	12	2	4	36	1.3



11 Eddie DeBro

G • 5-11 • 190 • Sr.
Smyrna, Tenn.
(Smyrna HS)

DeBro Lately

A walk-on who has worked his way into becoming a key reserve in the backcourt for the Vols ... Saw action in the first half in Tennessee's first two SEC games ... Saw significant action against South Alabama (1/4/06) finishing with two points, two assists and one steal in a career-high nine minutes ... Scored his first career field goal versus Alabama A&M (12/27/05) ... Grabbed a pair of rebounds in the season-opener against East Tennessee State (11/18/05) ... Had first career assist versus Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05) ... Saw action in both of UT's exhibition contests ... Scored three points in the win over Carson-Newman (11/11/05).

Noting DeBro

A mechanical engineering major ... Second-leading vote getter for strongest player of the squad in a poll of his teammates ... Spent part of the 2003-04 season practicing with the Vols as a walk-on but did not suit up for any games ... A distant cousin of current and former NBA stars Horace and Harvey Grant.

Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 2 Two times; last vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 3 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

Assists
Season 2 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

Blocks
Season 0
Career 1 vs. Alabama State (12/14/04)

Steals
Season 1 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Made
Season 1 Two times; last vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 2 Two times; last vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 0
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 1 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Made
Season 0
Career 1 vs. Alabama State (12/14/04)

Free Throws Attempted
Season 0
Career 2 vs. Alabama State (12/14/04)

Minutes
Season 9 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette				DNP								
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	1	1	0	0	5
Nov. 30	1-Murray State		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Dec. 6	Appalachian State				DNP								
Dec. 17	at Texas				DNP								
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State				DNP								
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M		1-2	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	2	0	0	0	0	4
Dec. 29	Lipscomb				DNP								
Jan. 4	South Alabama		1-2	0-1	0-0	1-2-3	0	2	2	0	0	1	9
Jan. 8	at South Carolina		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jan. 11	Georgia		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jan. 14	at LSU				DNP								
Jan. 18	at Memphis		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Jan. 21	Florida				DNP								
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Jan. 28	South Carolina				DNP								
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt				DNP								
Feb. 4	Mississippi		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Feb. 7	at Kentucky				DNP								
Feb. 11	at Georgia				DNP								
Feb. 15	Auburn				DNP								
Feb. 18	at Alabama				DNP								
Feb. 22	at Florida				DNP								
Feb. 25	Arkansas				DNP								
March 1	Kentucky				DNP								
March 4	at Vanderbilt		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
March 10	3-South Carolina				DNP								
March 16	4-Winthrop												

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2005	4-0	7	1.8	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1-2	.500	0-0-0	0.0	2-0	0	1	1	0	1	0.3
2006	11-0	33	3.0	2-5	.400	0-1	.000	0-0	.000	1-7-8	0.7	4-0	3	2	0	1	4	0.4
Totals	15-0	40	2.7	2-6	.333	0-1	.000	1-2	.500	1-7-8	0.5	6-0	3	3	1	1	5	0.3



35 Damion Harris

F • 6-10 • 275 • Fr.
Greenville, S.C.
(Wade Hampton HS / Prince Avenue Prep)

Harris Lately

Has not seen any action in a regular season game this year ... Played one minute in Tennessee's exhibition opener against Southern Indiana (11/3/05).

Noting Harris

Favorite all-time NBA player is Kareem Abdul Jabbar ... Played one season at Prince Avenue Prep in Pickens, S.C. after playing four seasons at Wade Hampton High School ... Earned all-region and all-county honors and was named the the Class AAA All-State team as a senior at Wade Hampton High School ... Honorable mention selection on *Street & Smith's* 2003 Boys High School All-America Team ... Averaged 17.1 points, 10 rebounds and 3.8 blocked shots during his senior campaign ... Shot 60 percent from the field ... Participated in the North-South All-Star Game and the adidas Top 30 Game ... Led the Generals to the state tournament in 2003-04 ... Earned all-region and all-county honors as a sophomore and junior ... As a junior averaged 16 points, 14 rebounds and 6.5 blocks in leading Wade Hampton to the Class AAA Upper State finals.

Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 0
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 0
Career Same

Assists
Season 0
Career Same

Blocks
Season 0
Career Same

Steals
Season 0
Career Same

Field Goals Made
Season 0
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 0
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 0
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 0
Career Same

Free Throws Made
Season 0
Career Same

Free Throws Attempted
Season 0
Career Same

Minutes
Season 0
Career Same

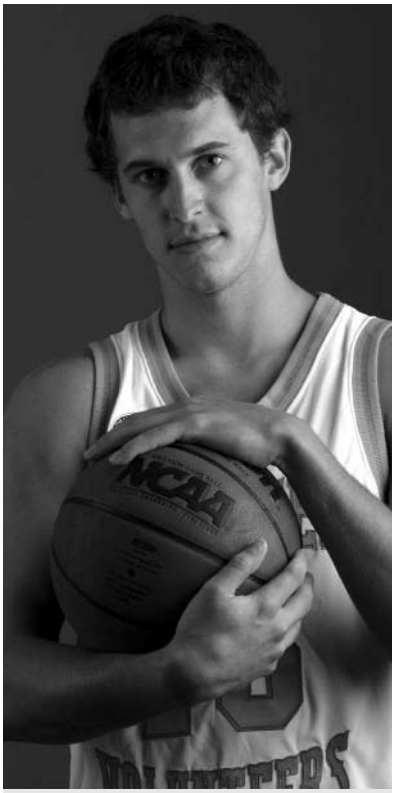
2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State				DNP								
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette				DNP								
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky				DNP								
Nov. 30	1-Murray State				DNP								
Dec. 6	Appalachian State				DNP								
Dec. 17	at Texas				DNP								
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State				DNP								
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M				DNP								
Dec. 29	Lipscomb				DNP								
Jan. 4	South Alabama				DNP								
Jan. 8	at South Carolina				DNP								
Jan. 11	Georgia				DNP								
Jan. 14	at LSU				DNP								
Jan. 18	at Memphis				DNP								
Jan. 21	Florida				DNP								
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State				DNP								
Jan. 28	South Carolina				DNP								
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt				DNP								
Feb. 4	Mississippi				DNP								
Feb. 7	at Kentucky				DNP								
Feb. 11	at Georgia				DNP								
Feb. 15	Auburn				DNP								
Feb. 18	at Alabama				DNP								
Feb. 22	at Florida				DNP								
Feb. 25	Arkansas				DNP								
March 1	Kentucky				DNP								
March 4	at Vanderbilt				DNP								
March 10	3-South Carolina				DNP								
March 16	4-Winthrop												

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2006	0-0	0	0.0	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0	.000	0-0-0	0.0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0



Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 8 vs. Oklahoma State (12/22/05)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 1 Nine times; last vs. South Carolina (3/10/06)
Career 1 12 times; last at Florida (2/22/06)

Assists
Season 4 at Kentucky (2/7/06)
Career Same

Blocks
Season 0
Career Same

Steals
Season 2 vs. Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
Career Same

Field Goals Made
Season 3 vs. Oklahoma State (12/22/05)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 3 Six times; last vs. South Carolina (3/10/06)
Career 4 Three times; last vs. Wofford (11/29/04)

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 2 Three times; last vs. Kentucky (3/1/06)
Career 2 Four times; last vs. Kentucky (3/1/06)

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 3 Three times; last vs. Kentucky (3/1/06)
Career 4 Three times; last vs. Wofford (11/29/04)

Free Throws Made
Season 2 at Mississippi State (1/25/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Attempted
Season 2 Two times; last at Mississippi State (1/25/06)
Career Same

Minutes
Season 13 Two times; last vs. Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
Career 14 vs. Alabama State (12/14/04)

15 Jordan Howell

G • 6-3 • 188 • So.
Auburn, Ala.
(Bob Jones HS)

Howell Lately

Will see some action at both the point and shooting guard positions ... Has hit a 3-pointer in three consecutive games ... Tied a career-high by hitting two three-pointers against Kentucky (3/1/06) ... Passed out a career-high four assists at Kentucky (2/7/06) ... Scored four points down the stretch, including hitting his first career free throw, to help UT come-from-behind to defeat Florida (1/21/06) ... Was a perfect 2-of-2 from three-point range finishing with six points against South Alabama (1/4/06) ... Set a career-high with two steals against Alabama A&M (12/27/05) ... Scored a career-high eight points on 3-of-3 shooting from the field against Oklahoma State (12/22/05) ... Hit a 3-pointer and grabbed a rebound against Appalachian State (12/6/05) ... Saw six minutes of against versus Murray State (11/30/05) grabbing one rebound and an assist ... Scored season-high five points against Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05) ... Provided the Vols with eight quality minutes off the bench in the opener against East Tennessee State (11/18/05).

Noting Howell

Says the most improved part of his game is his strength ... In a poll of the Vols, was voted "Most Likely To Become President" and "Most Likely To Be Successful Off The Court" ... Also picked as the "Most Likely To Win On The Game Show Jeopardy" ... Favorite all-time NBA player is Pete Maravich ... Wears the no. 15 jersey because it is the same number his father wore ... Practiced with the team while redshirting the 2003-04 season ... Brother, Brett, plays for Auburn ... Father, Rex, played basketball for Auburn in 1966 ... Uncle, Alex Howell, was a two-year starter and a 1967 All-SEC selection for the Auburn basketball team ... Originally signed with Georgia but received a release from the school and his National Letter of Intent from the NCAA.

2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State		0-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	8
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky		2-3	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	5	0	0	0	0	4
Nov. 30	1-Murray State		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	1	0	0	0	6
Dec. 6	Appalachian State		1-1	1-1	0-0	0-1-1	0	3	0	0	0	0	5
Dec. 17	at Texas		1-2	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	0	3	0	1	0	0	8
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State		3-3	2-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	8	2	1	0	0	13
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M		1-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	2	1	0	0	2	13
Dec. 29	Lipscomb		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	1	0	0	0	8
Jan. 4	South Alabama		2-2	2-2	0-0	0-1-1	0	6	1	0	0	0	10
Jan. 8	at South Carolina		1-2	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	2	3	0	0	0	0	6
Jan. 11	Georgia		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8
Jan. 14	at LSU		0-2	0-1	0-0	1-0-1	3	0	1	0	0	0	7
Jan. 18	at Memphis		0-2	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Jan. 21	Florida		1-2	1-1	1-2	0-1-1	1	4	1	0	0	0	11
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State		1-3	1-3	2-2	0-0-0	2	5	0	1	0	0	12
Jan. 28	South Carolina		1-2	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	2	1	0	0	0	7
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Feb. 4	Mississippi		1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	3	2	1	0	0	9
Feb. 7	at Kentucky		0-2	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	4	0	0	0	7
Feb. 11	at Georgia		0-2	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	7
Feb. 15	Auburn		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	2	0	1	1	0	1	7
Feb. 18	at Alabama		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Feb. 22	at Florida		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Feb. 25	Arkansas		1-3	1-3	0-0	0-0-0	1	3	0	1	0	0	5
March 1	Kentucky		2-3	2-3	0-0	0-0-0	0	6	1	1	0	0	8
March 4	at Vanderbilt		1-1	1-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	3	0	0	0	0	8
March 10	3-South Carolina		0-3	0-2	0-0	0-1-1	2	0	0	0	0	0	8
March 16	4-Winthrop												

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2005	19-0	116	6.1	7-29	.241	7-28	.250	0-0	.000	1-3-4	0.2	6-0	8	5	0	2	21	1.1
2006	28-0	212	7.6	19-47	.404	15-37	.405	3-4	.750	1-8-9	0.3	26-0	17	10	0	3	56	2.0
Totals	47-0	328	7.0	26-76	.342	22-65	.338	3-4	.750	2-11-13	0.3	32-0	25	15	0	5	77	1.6



5 Chris Lofton

G • 6-2 • 197 • So.
Maysville, Ky.
(Mason County HS)

Lofton's Honors

Wooden Award Finalist ... Second team All-America (*The Sporting News*) ... Third team All-America (NABC) ... USBWA District IV Player of the Year ... Second team All-America (FOXSports.com) ... First team All-SEC (Coaches) ... First team National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District 7 selection on Feb. 17 ... Named national Player of the week by ESPN.com and FOXSports.com on Feb. 13 ... Three-time SEC Player of the Week (12/19, 1/23 and 2/13) ... Named the SEC's best shooter in a poll of SEC players conducted by *Sports Illustrated* in February …CollegeInsider.com named him the SEC's "Most Valuable Player" on March 1 ... Called by ESPN's Dick Vitale, "... one of the most underrated players in America."

Lofton In The Record Books

Despite not even playing two full seasons, his 199 career-3-pointers rank fifth all-time at Tennessee ... 106 3-pointers this season are the most ever on UT's single-season lists ... Broke Allan Houston's school record of eight 3-pointers in a game when he had nine (9-of-12) at Georgia (2/11/06).

Lofton Lately

At one point this season hit 38 consecutive free throws, one short of the UT record ... In a four game span from the Kentucky game to the Alabama game, he averaged 27.8 points per game on 70.7 percent (29-of-41) 3-point shooting ... Over the four-game stretch, he averaged 7.25 3-pointers per game ... His 18.1 points per game against SEC opponents are third in the SEC ... Leads the SEC in 3-pointers per game (3.79 3pg) and is second in 3-point percentage (45.3%) and ... His field goal percentage of 47.9 is fifth in the SEC and the best among guards ... Scored a career-high 33 points, hitting a school-record nine three-pointers at Georgia (2/11/06) ... Scored a 31 points, hitting seven three-pointers and scoring seven points in the final two minutes to preserve the win at his home-state Kentucky (2/7/06) ... Lofton's 31 points against Kentucky are tied for the most by a Vol in Rupp Arena ... Named SEC Player of the Week (1/23/06) after he scored 29 points (18 in the first half), grabbed six rebounds, had three steals and three assists in the win over second-ranked Florida (1/21/06) ... Named co-SEC Player of the Week (12/19/05) after he hit five 3-pointers while scoring a game-high 21 points at Texas (12/17/05).

Noting Lofton

His popularity in his hometown is rivaled only by fellow Maysville area natives the Clooneys (George and Rosemary) and Miss America 2000 (Heather French) ... Stores in Maysville, Ky., are selling No. 5 Tennessee basketball jerseys ... Earned Kentucky's Mr. Basketball honors as a senior in 2004 ... Became the third Kentucky Mr. Basketball to sign with the Vols, joining Allan Houston (1989) and Jermaine Brown (1991) ... 2004 Kentucky Gatorade Player of the Year and Associated Press Player of the Year ... Scored 41 points in the Kentucky-Indiana Boys' All-Star Game in Owensboro, Ky., to tie Indiana's Oscar Robertson (1956) for third-highest single-game total in the series ... Also a standout wide receiver for the Mason County football team ... Has had his high school football jersey retired.

Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 33 at Georgia (2/11/06)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 7 Three times; last at Kentucky (2/7/06)
Career 8 vs. Nebraska (12/30/04)

Assists
Season 4 Five times; last vs. Mississippi (2/4/06)
Career 7 vs. UT-Chattanooga (12/5/04)

Blocks
Season 1 Three times; last vs. South Carolina (1/28/06)
Career 1 Five times; last vs. South Carolina (1/28/06)

Steals
Season 5 Two times; last vs. South Carolina (1/28/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Made
Season 11 at Kentucky (2/7/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 19 vs. Florida (1/21/06)
Career 20 at Arkansas (2/26/05)

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 9 at Georgia (2/11/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 13 vs. Florida (1/21/06)
Career 14 at Arkansas (2/26/05)

Free Throws Made
Season 5 vs. South Carolina (1/28/06)
Career 7 at Louisville (1/22/05)

Free Throws Attempted
Season 5 vs. South Carolina (1/28/06)
Career 7 at Louisville (1/22/05)

Minutes
Season 36 Two times; last at Florida (2/22/06)
Career 38 at Florida (1/19/05)

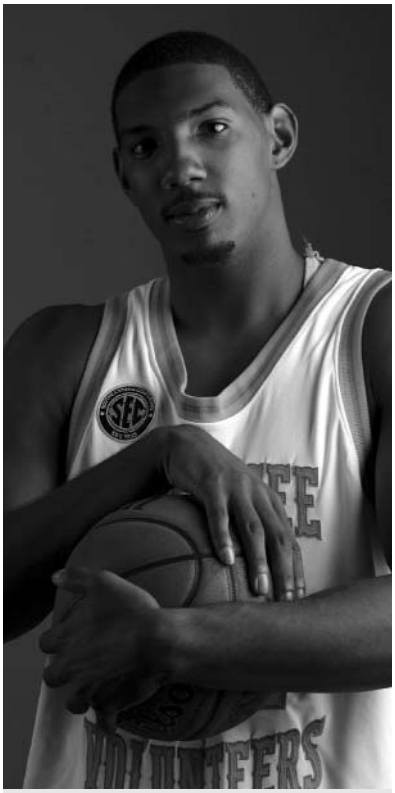
2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State	g	8-16	6-12	2-2	2-2-4	0	24	4	3	0	4	31
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette	g	4-8	3-6	1-2	1-6-7	3	12	2	2	0	1	34
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky	g	5-11	4-8	3-3	0-2-2	1	17	1	0	1	4	30
Nov. 30	1-Murray State	g	7-15	4-9	0-0	1-1-2	0	18	1	0	0	3	33
Dec. 6	Appalachian State	g	5-12	2-7	3-4	2-2-4	1	15	3	1	0	0	31
Dec. 17	at Texas	g	8-14	5-9	0-0	1-1-2	4	21	0	3	0	3	27
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State	g	8-16	3-10	2-2	0-1-1	3	21	1	2	0	5	35
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M	g	6-12	5-9	2-2	1-3-4	0	19	4	0	0	1	27
Dec. 29	Lipscomb	g	2-5	2-4	0-1	0-3-3	1	6	4	0	0	2	33
Jan. 4	South Alabama	g	5-11	4-10	0-0	0-3-3	2	14	4	0	1	3	26
Jan. 8	at South Carolina	g	6-10	6-7	0-0	1-4-5	3	18	0	1	0	1	33
Jan. 11	Georgia	g	6-11	2-6	2-2	0-2-2	2	16	1	0	0	1	32
Jan. 14	at LSU	g	1-7	0-4	0-0	0-0-0	1	2	2	2	0	1	32
Jan. 18	at Memphis	g	5-13	4-11	2-2	2-5-7	4	16	1	2	0	3	33
Jan. 21	Florida	g	10-19	5-13	4-4	1-5-6	0	29	3	1	0	3	35
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State	g	3-8	2-6	0-0	0-2-2	3	8	1	1	0	2	27
Jan. 28	South Carolina	g	7-15	4-11	5-5	2-3-5	1	23	3	0	1	5	34
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt	g	2-8	1-4	2-2	2-1-3	3	7	2	1	0	0	29
Feb. 4	Mississippi	g	4-10	1-6	3-3	2-2-4	3	12	4	1	0	1	31
Feb. 7	at Kentucky	g	11-18	7-10	2-2	1-6-7	1	31	0	3	0	0	32
Feb. 11	at Georgia	g	10-14	9-12	4-4	1-5-6	4	33	3	3	0	1	33
Feb. 15	Auburn	g	8-12	7-11	2-2	0-1-1	1	25	0	1	0	2	31
Feb. 18	at Alabama	g	7-15	6-8	2-2	1-3-4	3	22	1	1	0	2	36
Feb. 22	at Florida	g	4-10	4-9	4-4	1-4-5	1	16	1	1	0	3	36
Feb. 25	Arkansas	g	3-7	2-5	4-4	1-1-2	1	12	2	1	0	2	33
March 1	Kentucky	g	5-9	3-7	2-2	0-1-1	1	15	2	0	0	2	33
March 4	at Vanderbilt	g	8-18	2-11	3-4	1-4-5	1	21	0	0	0	1	31
March 10	3-South Carolina	g	4-14	3-9	1-2	3-1-4	3	12	2	3	0	1	34
March 16	4-Winthrop												

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2005	31-31	914	29.5	141-293	.481	93-200	.465	35-41	.854	25-86-111	3.6	36-0	46	32	2	40	410	13.2
2006	28-28	892	31.9	162-338	.479	106-234	.453	55-60	.917	27-74-101	3.6	51-0	52	33	3	57	485	17.3
Totals	59-59	1806	30.6	303-631	.480	199-434	.459	90-101	.891	52-160-212	3.6	87-0	98	65	5	97	895	15.2



22 Andre Patterson

F • 6-7 • 217 • Sr.
Los Angeles, Calif.
(Washington Prep / UCLA)

Patterson Lately

An athletic player in the post for the Vols ... Moved into the starting rotation against Mississippi State (1/15/06) and has been a starter since ... In the 13 games since gaining a starting spot, he is averaging 9.5 points and 7.7 rebounds per game ... Has come off the bench nine times this season and scored in double figures ... Has 69 offensive rebounds this season to lead the team and has grabbed an offensive rebound in every game but three this season ... Leads the team in rebounds (6.6 rpg; 11th in the SEC) ... Had season-highs in blocks (4) and steals (5) at Vanderbilt (3/4/06) ... Recorded his third straight double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds vs. South Carolina (1/28/06) ... Had 13 points and 11 rebounds at Mississippi State (1/25/06) ... Recorded his second double-double of the season scoring 12 points and grabbing 10 rebounds versus Florida (1/21/06) ... Was a perfect 3-of-3 from the field as well as 6-of-6 from the free throw line to finish with 12 points at Texas (12/17/05) ... Recorded a double-double with 11 points and 14 rebounds against Murray State (11/30/05) ... Scored a career-high 21 points to go with six rebounds, three blocks and two steals against Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05).

Noting Patterson

Voted by his teammates as the "Most Likely to Be On A TV Reality Show" ... As a junior he shot a team-best 56.8 percent from the field ... Practiced with the team while sitting out the 2003-04 season under NCAA transfer guidelines ... It marked the second time he has led his team in field goal percentage as he also did it at UCLA ... Led UCLA and the Pac-10 Conference with a 60.8 field goal percentage in 2003.

Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 21 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 14 Two times; last vs. Alabama A&M (12/27/05)
Career Same

Assists
Season 5 at Mississippi State (1/25/06)
Career 5 Two times; last at Mississippi State (1/25/06)

Blocks
Season 4 at Vanderbilt (3/4/06)
Career *5 Two times; last vs. Washington (1/2/03)

Steals
Season 5 at Vanderbilt (3/4/06)
Career 5 Two times; last at Vanderbilt (3/4/06)

Field Goals Made
Season 6 Three times; last at Alabama (2/18/06)
Career 7 vs. Belmont (12/20/04)

Field Goals Attempted
Season 14 at Alabama (2/18/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 1 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Career 1 Two times; last vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 2 vs. Arkansas (2/25/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Made
Season 8 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Career Same

Free Throws Attempted
Season 12 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05)
Career Same

Minutes
Season 34 Two times; last vs. Arkansas (2/25/06)
Career *38 vs. Arizona (3/13/03)

* includes totals at UCLA

2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State		2-6	0-0	3-4	1-2-3	2	7	0	0	2	2	20
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette		6-11	1-1	8-12	2-4-6	4	21	2	4	3	2	25
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky		5-7	0-0	0-1	1-3-4	2	10	0	0	0	0	21
Nov. 30	1-Murray State		5-12	0-0	1-4	8-6-14	2	11	0	4	0	0	27
Dec. 6	Appalachian State		5-7	0-0	1-2	0-3-3	4	11	0	2	1	3	20
Dec. 17	at Texas		3-3	0-0	6-6	1-1-2	4	12	1	2	1	1	13
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State		4-8	0-0	2-4	2-2-4	3	10	1	4	1	0	26
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M	c	4-8	0-0	1-1	4-10-14	3	9	3	0	0	3	27
Dec. 29	Lipscomb		1-3	0-0	3-4	2-4-6	3	5	2	4	0	0	23
Jan. 4	South Alabama		4-7	0-0	1-2	1-0-1	3	9	1	0	0	0	17
Jan. 8	at South Carolina		1-5	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	4	2	1	0	1	0	14
Jan. 11	Georgia		5-12	0-0	1-4	1-2-3	3	11	1	2	1	2	24
Jan. 14	at LSU		5-12	0-0	0-1	1-5-6	3	10	1	1	2	2	22
Jan. 18	at Memphis		1-4	0-0	4-5	4-3-7	4	6	2	0	0	0	13
Jan. 21	Florida		6-12	0-0	0-0	4-6-10	2	12	3	2	1	1	28
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State	f	5-10	0-0	3-4	3-8-11	4	13	5	6	1	2	25
Jan. 28	South Carolina	f	5-10	0-0	3-4	4-8-12	2	13	0	5	1	0	28
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt	f	3-9	0-0	2-4	4-7-11	1	8	0	3	1	2	31
Feb. 4	Mississippi	f	3-7	0-0	0-0	0-4-4	2	6	1	2	1	2	28
Feb. 7	at Kentucky	f	2-6	0-0	0-0	2-8-10	3	4	1	2	2	2	27
Feb. 11	at Georgia	f	5-9	0-1	5-6	4-2-6	4	15	3	2	0	0	28
Feb. 15	Auburn	f	5-9	0-1	5-7	4-3-7	1	15	2	0	1	2	29
Feb. 18	at Alabama	f	6-14	0-1	3-6	3-4-7	4	15	1	4	1	2	30
Feb. 22	at Florida	f	4-10	0-0	0-1	4-3-7	3	8	2	3	2	1	34
Feb. 25	Arkansas	f	5-11	0-2	0-0	1-3-4	3	10	3	0	2	0	34
March 1	Kentucky	f	2-4	0-0	0-0	3-5-8	2	4	3	3	1	0	30
March 4	at Vanderbilt	f	4-7	0-1	2-2	0-4-4	4	10	2	0	4	5	29
March 10	3-South Carolina	f	1-4	0-0	0-0	4-5-9	3	2	2	3	1	3	29
March 16	4-Winthrop												

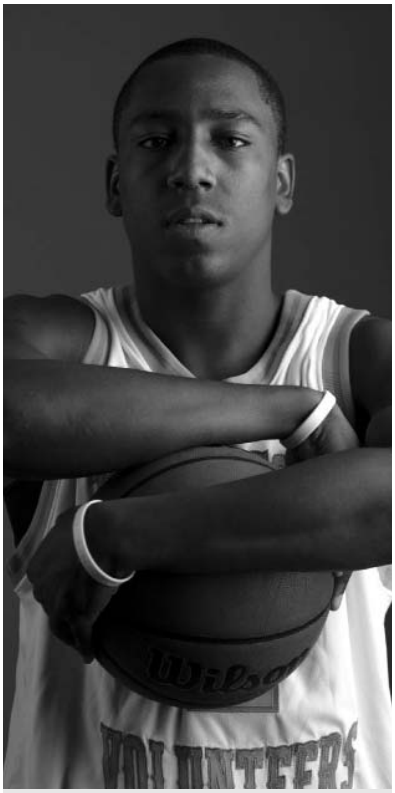
1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2002*	29-0	267	9.2	28-56	.500	0-1	.000	11-17	.647	25-37-62	2.1	26-0	8	17	18	8	67	2.3
2003*	24-21	555	23.1	76-125	.608	0-0	.000	28-54	.519	38-95-133	5.5	58-1	22	42	27	14	180	7.5
Totals	53-21	822	15.5	104-181	.575	0-1	.000	39-72	.542	63-132-195	3.7	84-1	30	59	45	22	247	4.7

* Statistics at UCLA

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2005	31-22	765	24.7	96-169	.568	1-2	.500	36-58	.621	71-120-191	6.2	86-3	37	58	32	24	229	7.4
2006	28-14	702	25.1	107-227	.471	1-7	.143	54-84	.643	69-115-184	6.6	82-0	43	58	31	37	269	9.6
Totals	59-36	1467	24.9	203-396	.513	2-9	.222	90-142	.634	140-235-375	6.4	168-3	80	116	63	61	498	8.4



Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 19 vs. Auburn (2/15/06)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 8 at Vanderbilt (3/4/06)
Career Same

Assists
Season 6 vs. East Tennessee State (11/18/05)
Career Same

Blocks
Season 1 Three times; last vs. Kentucky (3/1/06)
Career 1 Four times; last vs. Kentucky (3/1/06)

Steals
Season 4 vs. Mississippi (2/4/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Made
Season 7 vs. Mississippi (2/4/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 14 vs. Mississippi (2/4/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 5 vs. Auburn (2/15/06)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 9 at LSU (1/14/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Made
Season 4 Four times; last at Georgia (2/11/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Attempted
Season 6 Three times; last at Georgia (2/11/06)
Career Same

Minutes
Season 31 at Vanderbilt (3/4/06)
Career Same

2 JaJuan Smith

G • 6-2 • 190 • So.
Decatur, Tenn.
(McMinn County HS)

Smith Lately

One of the best sixth-men in the Southeastern Conference ... The first Vol off the bench in every game but one this year ... After averaging 8.0 minutes per game last season is averaging 24.4 minutes this year ... Has made a three-pointer in 25 games this season after only hitting 10 all of last season ... In 16 regular-season SEC games averaged 11.3 ppg, 3.3 rpg, and 2.25 three-pointers made a game ... Had career-highs in points (19) and three-pointers made (5) against Auburn (2/15/06) ... Scored 17 points and had a career-high four steals against Mississippi (2/4/06) ... Scored 11 of his 13 points in the second-half against South Carolina (1/8/06) ... Scored 16 points, shooting 6-of-9 from the field, and passed out five assists vs. Alabama A&M (12/27/05) ... Hit four 3-pointers to score 12 points at Texas (12/17/05) ... Grabbed a career-high six rebounds versus Murray State (11/30/05) ... In season-opener against East Tennessee State (11/18/05) set a career-high with six assists.

Noting Smith

His nickname "Lil' Town" was voted the best on the team in a poll of the Vols ... Voted the funniest player on the team ... Says that playing for his home state is the most rewarding thing about playing at Tennessee ... Worked hard in the offseason to improve his shot ... A cousin of former Vols Vincent Yarbrough (1999-02) and Del Baker (1998-02).

2005-06 Game-By-Game

	Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State	2-5	2-5	0-1	0-4-4	4	6	6	4	0	3	25
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette	1-3	1-3	0-0	1-2-3	0	3	2	1	1	2	24
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky	3-8	1-3	1-2	0-4-4	2	8	2	2	0	0	24
Nov. 30	1-Murray State	1-6	0-3	0-1	1-5-6	0	2	1	0	0	2	22
Dec. 6	Appalachian State	3-7	3-5	0-0	1-1-2	1	9	2	2	0	2	23
Dec. 17	at Texas	4-8	4-6	0-2	1-1-2	2	12	3	1	0	0	25
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State	2-7	2-7	0-0	0-1-1	2	6	0	2	0	1	22
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M	6-9	2-4	2-2	1-0-1	3	16	5	0	0	2	25
Dec. 29	Lipscomb	3-10	1-5	1-1	0-1-1	3	8	1	0	0	2	25
Jan. 4	South Alabama	4-8	2-5	0-0	0-0-0	2	10	3	2	0	2	27
Jan. 8	at South Carolina	4-6	2-3	3-4	2-1-3	3	13	2	0	0	1	25
Jan. 11	Georgia	4-11	4-8	4-4	0-1-1	1	16	1	2	0	3	27
Jan. 14	at LSU	3-12	3-9	0-0	1-1-2	4	9	1	0	0	3	24
Jan. 18	at Memphis	0-7	0-4	0-0	0-2-2	3	0	0	3	1	1	18
Jan. 21	Florida	4-8	1-3	1-2	3-3-6	1	10	0	1	0	1	29
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State	4-7	2-4	1-3	1-2-3	1	11	0	2	0	0	23
Jan. 28	South Carolina	2-12	1-7	4-6	2-2-4	0	9	3	2	0	0	24
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt	2-7	2-7	4-6	0-0-0	0	10	0	1	0	1	27
Feb. 4	Mississippi	7-14	2-6	1-2	2-5-7	2	17	2	2	0	4	28
Feb. 7	at Kentucky	3-9	2-6	0-3	1-2-3	3	8	3	3	0	1	23
Feb. 11	at Georgia	3-8	0-5	4-6	1-3-4	1	10	1	2	0	2	27
Feb. 15	Auburn	6-10	5-8	2-2	2-0-2	1	19	1	0	0	0	21
Feb. 18	at Alabama	4-10	3-8	0-2	0-1-1	4	11	1	0	0	1	17
Feb. 22	at Florida	3-6	3-5	0-0	0-0-0	2	9	3	2	0	0	25
Feb. 25	Arkansas	3-7	2-5	3-4	1-6-7	2	11	5	2	0	2	28
March 1	Kentucky	6-7	3-4	0-1	1-0-1	1	15	1	1	1	2	24
March 4	at Vanderbilt	1-8	1-7	0-0	2-6-8	1	3	3	1	0	1	31
March 10	3-South Carolina	3-8	3-8	0-0	2-1-3	3	9	2	1	0	0	20
March 16	4-Winthrop											

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2005	25-0	200	8.0	17-54	.315	10-34	.294	4-9	.444	6-14-20	0.8	15-0	11	10	1	9	48	1.9
2006	28-0	683	24.4	91-228	.399	57-153	.373	31-54	.574	26-55-81	2.9	52-0	54	39	3	39	270	9.6
Totals	53-0	883	16.7	108-282	.383	67-187	.358	35-63	.556	32-69-101	1.9	67-0	65	49	4	48	318	6.0



Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 23 Two times; last vs. South Carolina (3/10/06)
Career 26 vs. Kentucky (3/11/05)

Rebounds
Season 9 vs. Georgia (1/11/06)
Career 13 vs. Vanderbilt (1/14/04)

Assists
Season 8 vs. Auburn (2/15/06)
Career 10 vs. Nebraska (12/30/04)

Blocks
Season 1 Three times; last at Georgia (2/11/06)
Career 2 vs. Gardner-Webb (11/22/02)

Steals
Season 5 vs. Georgia (1/11/06)
Career 5 Two times; last vs. Georgia (1/11/06)

Field Goals Made
Season 8 Two times; last vs. South Carolina (3/10/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 16 at LSU (1/14/06)
Career 17 vs. UT-Chattanooga (12/5/04)

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 5 vs. Appalachian State (12/6/05)
Career 5 Three times; last vs. Appalachian State (12/6/05)

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 7 Two times; last vs. Kentucky (3/1/06)
Career 12 vs. UT-Chattanooga (12/5/04)

Free Throws Made
Season 13 vs. Lipscomb (12/29/05)
Career Same

Free Throws Attempted
Season 14 vs. Lipscomb (12/29/05)
Career Same

Minutes
Season 37 at South Carolina (1/8/06)
Career 41 vs. Georgia (1/22/03)

32 C.J. Watson

G • 6-2 • 176 • Sr.
Las Vegas, Nev.
(Bishop Gorman HS)

Watson's Honors

Second team All-SEC selection (Coaches) ... USBWA All-District IV selection ... Second team National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) All-District 7 selection on Feb. 17 .. SEC Player of the Week (12/5/06) ... Named the SEC's most underrated player in a poll of SEC players conducted by Sports Illustrated … Preseason first team All-SEC selection by the league's coaches.

Watson In The Record Books

Ranks second all-time at Tennessee in career assists (574) and steals (197) ... His 574 career assists rank 10th in SEC history ... Became just the second Vol (joining Tony Harris) to have 1,000 points and 500 assists in a career ... Ranks eighth all-time at Tennessee for 3-pointers made (162) and ninth for 3-pointers attempted (408) ... 1,395 career points are 17th all-time at Tennessee.

Watson Lately

The Southeastern Conference's active career leader in assists with 574 ... Leads the team in assists (4.07 apg; ninth in the SEC) steals (2.07 spg; third in the SEC), and is second points (15.3 ppg; seventh in the SEC) and free throw percentage (87.3; third in the SEC) ... His assist/turnover ratio of 1.93 is fourth in the SEC ... Tied his season-high with 23 points against South Carolina (3/10/06) ... Grabbed a season-high nine rebounds and scored 20 points while dishing out six assists and garnering five steals versus Georgia (1/11/06) ... Fueled Tennessee's comeback win at South Carolina (1/8/06) with 17 points, three assists and three steals ... Went 13-of-14 from the line in an 18-point effort against Lipscomb (12/29/05) ... Finished with 16 points, four assists and three rebounds vs. Alabama A&M (12/27/05) ... Scored 17 points while dishing out four assists and grabbing a season-high six rebounds versus Texas (12/17/05) ... Scored his 1,000th career point when he sank a free throw as a part of a four-point play against Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05) ...

Noting Watson

One of the top playmakers in the country ... Says his versatility is the best part of his game ... Voted "Most Competitive" on the squad in a poll of his teammates ... Models his game after Dallas Mavericks star Jason Terry ... Aspires to be the first Vol to get a triple-double ... Has spent two summers representing the country while playing for USA Basketball ... Nickname is "Quiet Storm" ... Chose the No. 32 jersey because it was worn by former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson ... Describes his playing style as smooth.

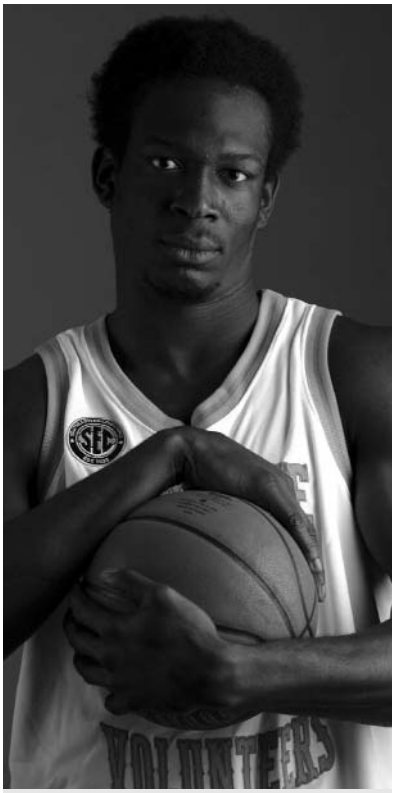
2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State	g	6-11	3-5	7-7	0-2-2	2	22	5	4	0	2	31
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette	g	3-7	2-3	9-13	0-2-2	3	17	5	2	0	2	34
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky	g	5-7	2-3	0-0	0-1-1	1	12	6	4	0	4	28
Nov. 30	1-Murray State	g	3-8	1-3	4-4	0-3-3	3	11	7	1	0	2	32
Dec. 6	Appalachian State	g	7-10	5-7	4-5	0-4-4	4	23	5	2	0	3	33
Dec. 17	at Texas	g	5-8	1-2	6-6	1-5-6	3	17	4	1	0	3	35
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State	g	3-9	2-5	4-4	0-1-1	4	12	1	3	0	3	27
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M	g	5-9	2-5	4-4	1-2-3	4	16	4	1	0	0	25
Dec. 29	Lipscomb	g	2-8	1-6	13-14	0-5-5	0	18	1	3	0	3	32
Jan. 4	South Alabama	g	6-9	0-0	4-5	0-3-3	1	16	5	0	0	1	30
Jan. 8	at South Carolina	g	5-11	1-3	6-8	0-2-2	1	17	3	1	0	3	37
Jan. 11	Georgia	g	5-6	1-2	9-10	1-8-9	4	20	6	2	0	5	31
Jan. 14	at LSU	g	7-16	1-5	3-3	3-0-3	3	18	3	1	0	1	33
Jan. 18	at Memphis	g	2-10	2-6	8-11	0-1-1	4	14	2	2	1	2	29
Jan. 21	Florida	g	1-8	0-4	4-4	0-2-2	5	6	6	1	0	1	29
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State	g	8-10	3-4	0-0	1-3-4	3	19	5	2	0	4	28
Jan. 28	South Carolina	g	4-6	1-2	2-2	0-5-5	0	11	3	0	0	2	33
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt	g	3-11	1-3	4-5	0-1-1	2	11	5	0	1	0	36
Feb. 4	Mississippi	g	6-14	3-3	3-4	1-3-4	1	18	6	1	0	3	31
Feb. 7	at Kentucky	g	3-11	0-5	4-4	3-2-5	2	10	4	2	0	3	33
Feb. 11	at Georgia	g	3-6	1-3	4-4	0-5-5	2	11	2	4	1	0	33
Feb. 15	Auburn	g	4-7	2-4	8-9	0-3-3	1	18	8	2	0	2	33
Feb. 18	at Alabama	g	4-12	0-3	5-5	2-0-2	2	13	2	2	0	2	36
Feb. 22	at Florida	g	6-11	1-1	0-0	0-6-6	3	13	3	4	0	0	35
Feb. 25	Arkansas	g	5-10	3-4	4-5	0-4-4	1	17	3	1	0	2	35
March 1	Kentucky	g	5-15	3-7	2-3	0-1-1	4	15	5	3	0	2	32
March 4	at Vanderbilt	g	2-9	1-4	6-6	3-2-5	1	11	3	6	0	1	31
March 10	3-South Carolina	g	8-12	3-5	4-5	0-1-1	5	23	2	4	0	2	34
March 16	4-Winthrop												

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2003	29-28	1038	35.8	80-188	.426	24-66	.364	79-121	.653	18-103-121	4.2	57-0	160	85	6	36	263	9.1
2004	29-29	982	33.9	104-249	.418	44-107	.411	82-103	.796	20-103-123	4.2	55-2	145	73	3	45	334	11.5
2005	31-31	1082	34.9	109-266	.410	48-128	.375	103-136	.757	16-85-101	3.3	71-0	155	96	1	58	369	11.9
2006	28-28	896	32.0	126-271	.465	46-107	.430	131-150	.873	16-77-93	3.3	69-2	114	59	3	58	429	15.3
Total	117-116	3998	34.2	419-974	.430	162-408	.397	395-510	.775	70-368-438	3.7	252-4	574	313	13	197	1395	11.9



1 Major Wingate

C • 6-10 • 250 • Jr.
Florence, S.C.
(North Gwinnett [Ga.] HS)

Wingate Lately

An athletic big man who will play a key role in Tennessee's success this season ... Reached double-figure scoring in 18 games this season after reaching double-figures just three times his first two years at UT ... Scored 16 points (his most ever in an SEC game) while grabbing three rebounds and passing out three assists versus Vanderbilt (2/1/06) ... Set career-highs in blocks (4) and field goals made (8) and had a season-high four assists versus South Alabama (1/4/06) ... Scored 12 points at Texas (12/17/05) while helping limit LaMarcus Aldridge to just four field goals ... Led the Vols with a career-high 18 points on 6-of-8 shooting and a perfect 6-of-6 from the free throw line versus Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05) ... Overcame a foot injury to score 12 points and block three shots in 28 minutes of action against Louisiana-Lafayette (11/22/05).

Noting Wingate

In a poll of the Vols, was voted "Most Improved" player on the team, "Strongest" and "Best Dresser" ... Says the best advice to give children is "Do the right thing, even when no one is watching" ... Models his game after Kevin Garnett ... A defensive presence in the paint for the Vols ... A savvy player who is a good passer and sees the court well ... Has exceptional hands for a big man.

Season/Career Highs

Points
Season 18 vs. Eastern Kentucky (11/25/05)
Career Same

Rebounds
Season 7 vs. Lipscomb (12/29/05)
Career 8 at Louisville (1/22/05)

Assists
Season 4 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career 5 at Auburn (1/29/05)

Blocks
Season 4 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

Steals
Season 2 vs. Oklahoma State (12/22/05)
Career 3 vs. Tennessee State (11/28/03)

Field Goals Made
Season 8 vs. South Alabama (1/4/06)
Career Same

Field Goals Attempted
Season 13 Two times; last vs. Murray St. (11/30/05)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Made
Season 1 vs. Lipscomb (12/29/05)
Career Same

3-Pt Field Goals Attempted
Season 1 Five times; last vs. Georgia (1/11/06)
Career Same

Free Throws Made
Season 6 Two times; last vs. Vanderbilt (2/1/06)
Career 6 Three times; last vs. Vanderbilt (2/1/06)

Free Throws Attempted
Season 8 Two times; last vs. Vanderbilt (2/1/06)
Career Same

Minutes
Season 35 at South Carolina (1/8/06)
Career 35 Two times; last at South Carolina (1/8/06)

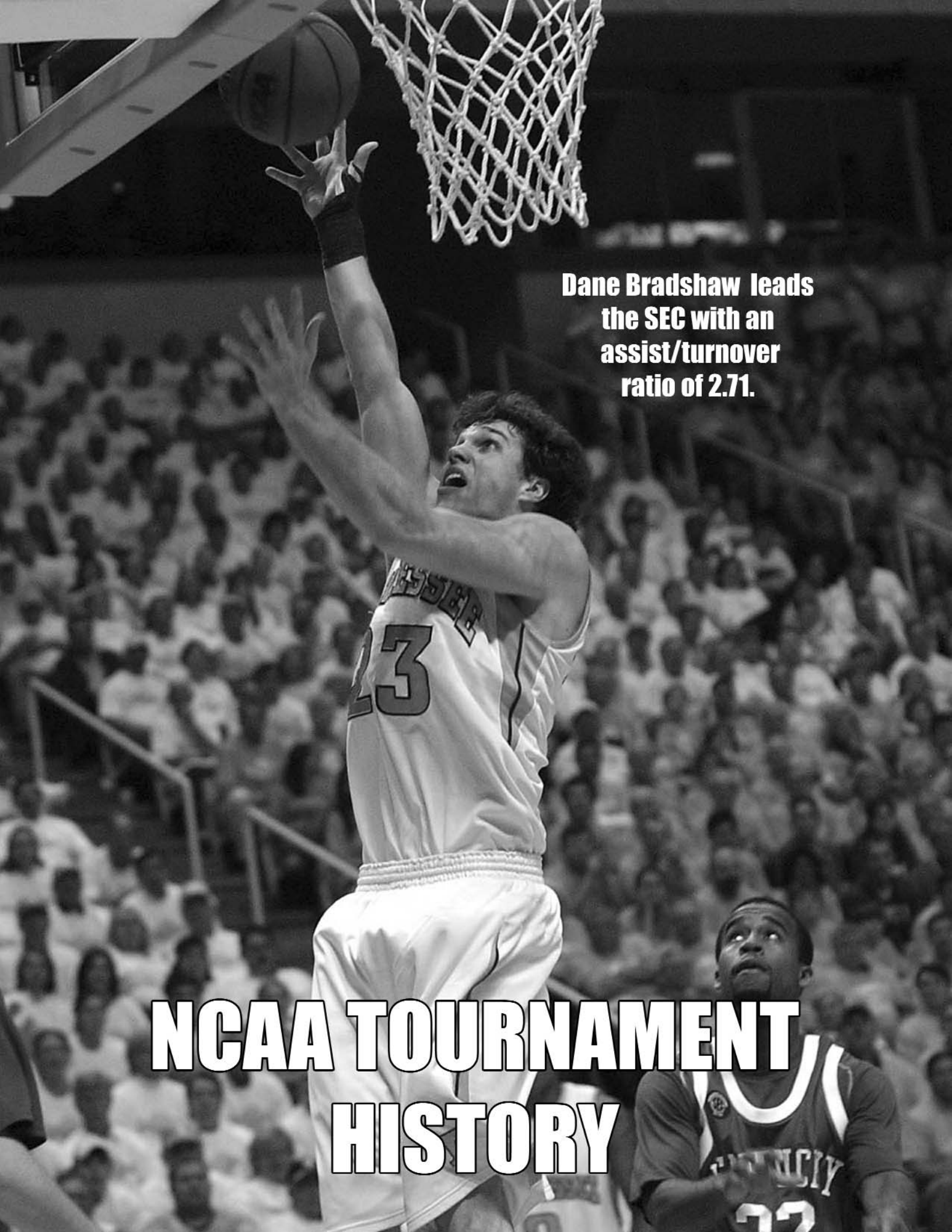
2005-06 Game-By-Game

		Start	FG-A	3P-A	FT-A	Reb	PF	TP	A	TO	BK	S	Min
Nov. 18	East Tennessee State	c	5-6	0-1	1-6	1-1-2	3	11	2	2	0	0	23
Nov. 22	Louisiana-Lafayette	c	4-13	0-1	4-8	0-3-3	3	12	0	1	3	0	28
Nov. 25	Eastern Kentucky	c	6-8	0-0	6-6	4-1-5	1	18	1	3	1	0	27
Nov. 30	1-Murray State	c	4-13	0-1	2-2	4-1-5	1	10	0	0	2	0	28
Dec. 6	Appalachian State	c	6-11	0-0	0-1	2-1-3	3	12	1	4	0	1	27
Dec. 17	at Texas	c	4-6	0-0	4-4	1-0-1	5	12	2	1	0	1	22
Dec. 22	2-Oklahoma State	c	2-6	0-0	4-7	1-3-4	4	8	1	1	1	2	25
Dec. 27	Alabama A&M		4-5	0-0	0-0	0-4-4	1	8	0	3	2	0	18
Dec. 29	Lipscomb	c	5-11	1-1	2-2	1-6-7	0	13	0	1	3	1	24
Jan. 4	South Alabama	c	8-11	0-0	1-1	1-4-5	2	17	4	3	4	0	26
Jan. 8	at South Carolina	c	3-8	0-0	1-5	1-2-3	1	7	0	3	0	1	35
Jan. 11	Georgia	c	6-8	0-1	2-3	3-3-6	4	14	1	1	0	0	23
Jan. 14	at LSU	c	6-10	0-0	1-3	0-3-3	4	13	0	1	0	1	30
Jan. 18	at Memphis	c	5-12	0-0	1-2	2-4-6	2	11	3	2	0	1	30
Jan. 21	Florida	c	2-7	0-0	3-4	1-1-2	4	7	0	3	0	0	21
Jan. 25	at Mississippi State	c	3-5	0-0	2-2	3-1-4	4	8	0	1	0	0	16
Jan. 28	South Carolina	c	3-4	0-0	0-0	2-3-5	2	6	1	2	2	0	18
Feb. 1	Vanderbilt	c	5-6	0-0	6-8	2-1-3	3	16	3	2	0	0	21
Feb. 4	Mississippi	c	4-6	0-0	2-6	3-2-5	1	10	3	1	0	1	26
Feb. 7	at Kentucky	c	4-6	0-0	4-6	1-0-1	3	12	0	1	0	0	26
Feb. 11	at Georgia	c	1-2	0-0	1-1	1-4-5	4	3	0	5	1	0	23
Feb. 15	Auburn	c	5-8	0-0	2-2	3-2-5	2	12	3	1	0	1	25
Feb. 18	at Alabama	c	2-6	0-0	1-4	3-2-5	3	5	2	5	0	0	28
Feb. 22	at Florida	c	5-6	0-0	1-1	0-0-0	4	11	0	3	1	0	21
Feb. 25	Arkansas	c	1-4	0-0	1-4	0-1-1	4	3	2	1	1	0	25
March 1	Kentucky	c	5-9	0-0	0-1	2-2-4	3	10	1	3	0	0	27
March 4	at Vanderbilt	c	4-6	0-0	2-2	4-2-6	4	10	0	5	1	0	16
March 10	3-South Carolina	c	2-3	0-0	4-5	3-2-5	1	8	0	5	2	1	25
March 16	4-Winthrop												

1-at the Gaylord Entertainment Center; 2-70th annual O'Reilly All-College Classic; 3-Southeastern Conference Tournament (Nashville, Tenn.); 4-NCAA Tournament

Career Statistics

Year	GP-GS	Min	Avg	FG-A	Pct	3FG-A	Pct	FT-A	Pct	Off-Def-Rebs	Avg	PF-FO	Ast	TO	Blk	Stl	Pts	Avg
2004	29-15	470	16.2	39-96	.406	0-0	.000	26-40	.650	29-44-73	2.5	58-0	18	42	18	10	104	3.6
2005	30-8	511	17.0	54-107	.505	0-0	.000	42-72	.583	27-64-91	3.0	66-1	14	37	20	12	150	5.0
2006	28-27	684	24.4	114-206	.553	1-5	.200	58-96	.604	49-59-108	3.9	76-1	30	64	24	11	287	10.3
Totals	87-50	1665	19.1	207-409	.506	1-5	.200	126-208	.606	105-167-272	3.1	200-2	62	143	62	33	541	6.2



Dane Bradshaw leads the SEC with an assist/turnover ratio of 2.71.

NCAA TOURNAMENT HISTORY

Vols In The NCAA Tournament

Record

Appearances: 14
Overall Record: 8-14
First Round Record: 6-6
Second Round Record: 2-4
Regional Semifinal Record: 0-3
Regional Consolation Record: 0-1

vs. Opponent (Years)

0-1 vs. Charlotte (2001)
1-0 vs. Connecticut (2000)
0-1 vs. Dayton (1967)
1-0 vs. Delaware (1999)
1-0 vs. Eastern Kentucky (1979)
1-0 vs. Furman (1980)
0-1 vs. Illinois State (1998)
0-1 vs. Indiana (1967)
1-0 vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (2000)
0-1 vs. Louisville (1983)
1-0 vs. Marquette (1983)
0-1 vs. Maryland (1980)
0-1 vs. North Carolina (2000)
0-1 vs. Notre Dame (1979)
1-0 vs. Southwest Louisiana (1982)
0-1 vs. Southwest Missouri State (1999)
0-1 vs. Syracuse (1977)
1-0 vs. Virginia Commonwealth (1981)
0-2 vs. Virginia (1981, 1982)
0-1 vs. VMI (1976)
0-1 vs. West Virginia (1989)
0-0 vs. Winthrop (2006)

Record By Site (Years)

0-1 at Atlanta, Ga. (1981)
0-1 at Austin, Texas (2000)
0-1 at Baton Rouge, La. (1977)
2-0 at Birmingham, Ala. (2000)
2-2 at Charlotte, N.C. (1976, 1981, 1999)
0-1 at Dayton, Ohio (2001)
0-2 at Evanston, Ill. (1967)
1-1 at Evansville, Ind. (1983)
1-2 at Greensboro, N.C. (1980, 1989)
1-1 at Indianapolis, Ind. (1982)
1-1 at Murfreesboro, Tenn. (1979)
0-1 at Sacramento, Calif. (1998)

Record vs. Seeds

Seed	W-L	Opponent (Last)
1	0-4	Louisville (1983)
2	0-1	Maryland (1980)
5	2-0	Connecticut (2000)
7	0-1	West Virginia (1989)
8	1-1	North Carolina (2000)
9	2-2	Charlotte (2001)
10	1-0	Furman (1980)
12	0-1	SW Missouri St. (1999)
13	2-0	Louisiana-Lafayette (2000)
15	0-0	Winthrop (2006)

Vols As A Seeded Team

Seed	W-L	Years
2	0-0	2006
4	4-3	1981, 1999, 2000
7	1-1	1980
8	2-4	1979, 1983, 1998, 2001
9	1-2	1982, 2001
10	0-1	1989

NCAA Tournament Results

Year	Date	Region	Round	Site	Opponent	Result
1967	March 17	Mideast	Regional Semi	Evanston, Ill.	Dayton	L, 52-53
	March 18	Mideast	Regional Consol.	Evanston, Ill.	Indiana	L, 44-51
1976	March 13	East	First Round	Charlotte, N.C.	VMI	L, 75-81
1977	March 13	Mideast	First Round	Baton Rouge, La.	Syracuse	L, 88-93 ot
1979	March 9	Mideast	First Round	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	#9 Eastern Kentucky	W, 97-81
	March 11	Mideast	Second Round	Murfreesboro, Tenn.	#1 Notre Dame	L, 67-73
1980	March 6	East	First Round	Greensboro, N.C.	#10 Furman	W, 80-69
	March 8	East	Second Round	Greensboro, N.C.	#2 Maryland	L, 75-86
1981	March 15	East	Second Round*	Charlotte, N.C.	#5 VCU	W, 58-56 ot
	March 19	East	Regional Semi.	Atlanta, Ga.	#1 Virginia	L, 48-62
1982	March 12	Mideast	First Round	Indianapolis, Ind.	#8 SW Louisiana	W, 61-57
	March 14	Mideast	Second Round	Indianapolis, Ind.	#1 Virginia	L, 51-54
1983	March 18	Mideast	First Round	Evansville, Ind.	#9 Marquette	W, 57-56
	March 20	Mideast	Second Round	Evansville, Ind.	#1 Louisville	L, 57-70
1989	March 16	East	First Round	Greensboro, N.C.	#7 West Virginia	L, 68-84
1998	March 12	West	First Round	Sacramento, Calif.	#9 Illinois State	L, 81-82 ot
1999	March 12	East	First Round	Charlotte, N.C.	#13 Delaware	W, 62-52
	March 14	East	Second Round	Charlotte, N.C.	#12 SW Missouri State	L, 51-81
2000	March 17	South	First Round	Birmingham, Ala.	#13 Louisiana-Lafayette	W, 63-58
	March 19	South	Second Round	Birmingham, Ala.	#5 Connecticut	W, 65-51
	March 24	South	Regional Semi	Austin, Texas	#8 North Carolina	L, 69-74
2001	March 16	Midwest	First Round	Dayton, Ohio	#9 Charlotte	L, 63-70
2006	March 16	Washington DC	First Round	Greensboro, N.C.	#15 Winthrop	

** Received First Round Bye*
NCAA began seeding the Tournament in 1979

Career Leaders

Scoring

Player (Years)	Gms	Total
Dale Ellis (1980-83)	8	116
Reggie Johnson (1977-80)	5	99
Gary Carter (1979-81)	6	87
Michael Brooks (1981-83)	6	75
C.J. Black (1998-2000)	6	75

Scoring Average (Minimum 2 games)

Player (Years)	Gms	Avg
Ernie Grunfeld (1976-77)	2	31.0
Ron Widby (1967)	2	21.5
Reggie Johnson (1977-80)	5	19.8
Brandon Wharton (1998-99)	3	16.7
Dale Ellis (1980-83)	8	14.5
Gary Carter (1979-81)	6	14.5

Rebounding

Player (Years)	Gms	Total
Isiah Victor (1998-2001)	7	48
Dale Ellis (1980-83)	8	43
Reggie Johnson (1977-80)	5	42
Gary Carter (1979-81)	6	41
Vincent Yarbrough (1999-2000)	6	33

Rebounding Average (Minimum 2 games)

Player (Years)	Gms	Avg
Ernie Grunfeld (1976-77)	2	10.0
Reggie Johnson (1977-80)	5	8.4
Tom Boerwinkle (1967)	2	8.0
Isiah Victor (1998-2001)	7	6.9
Gary Carter (1979-81)	6	6.8

Assists

Player (Years)	Gms	Total
Bert Bertelkamp (1977-80)	5	27
Johnny Darden (1976-79)	4	26
Tyrone Beaman (1981-83)	5	24
Tony Harris (1998-2001)	7	23
Gary Carter (1979-81)	6	20

Blocks

Player (Years)	Gms	Total
Rashard Lee (1998-99)	3	9
Isiah Victor (1998-2001)	7	9
C.J. Black (1998-2000)	6	5
Reggie Johnson (1977-80)	5	5

Steals

Player (Years)	Gms	Total
Tony Harris (1998-2001)	7	10
Isiah Victor (1998-2001)	7	8
Gary Carter (1979-81)	6	8
Johnny Darden (1976-79)	4	7
Tyrone Beaman (1981-83)	5	6
Terry Crosby (1976-79)	4	6
Dale Ellis (1980-83)	8	6

Games

Player (Years)	Total
Dale Ellis (1980-83)	8
Steve Ray (1979-82)	8
Tony Harris (1998-2001)	7
Isiah Victor (1998-2001)	7
Several with 6	

Individual NCAA Tournament Records

Points
36 by Ernie Grunfeld vs. VMI (3/13/76)

Field Goals Made
13 by Reggie Johnson vs. Furman (3/6/80)
13 by Ernie Grunfeld vs. VMI (3/13/76)

Field Goal Attempts
23 by Ernie Grunfeld vs. VMI (3/13/76)

Field Goal Percentage (15 att.)
68.4 (13-19) by Reggie Johnson vs. Furman (3/6/80)

Field Goal Percentage (10 att.)
81.8 (9-11) by Howard Wood vs. Furman (3/6/80)

3-Pt Field Goals Made
4 by Brandon Wharton vs. Illinois State (3/12/98)

3-Pt Field Goal Attempts
10 by Tony Harris vs. SW Missouri State (3/14/99)

3-Pt Field Goal Percentage (6 att.)
50.0 (3-6) by Vincent Yarbrough vs. Connecticut (3/19/00)
50.0 (3-6) by Jon Higgins vs. Connecticut (3/19/00)
50.0 (3-6) by Greg Bell vs. West Virginia (3/16/89)
50.0 (3-6) by Doug Roth vs. West Virginia (3/16/89)

Free Throws Made
10 by C.J. Black vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (3/17/00)
10 by Ernie Grunfeld vs. VMI (3/13/76)

Free Throw Attempts
13 by Ernie Grunfeld vs. VMI (3/13/76)

Free Throw Percentage (7 att.)
100.0 (10-10) by C.J. Black vs. La-Lafayette (3/17/00)
100.0 (7-7) by Gary Carter vs. Maryland (3/8/80)

Offensive Rebounds
5 by Isiah Victor vs. Delaware (3/12/99)
5 by Rashard Lee vs. Illinois State (3/12/98)
5 by Dyron Nix vs. West Virginia (3/16/89)

Defensive Rebounds
9 by Vincent Yarbrough vs. Charlotte (3/16/01)
9 by Isiah Victor vs. Delaware (3/12/99)

Total Rebounds
14 by Isiah Victor vs. Delaware (3/12/99)
14 by Reggie Johnson vs. Furman (3/6/80)

Assists
16 by Bert Bertelkamp vs. Maryland (3/8/80)

Blocked Shots
3 by Torrey Harris vs. Illinois State (3/12/98)
3 by Reggie Johnson vs. Furman (3/6/80)
3 by Reggie Johnson vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)

Steals
4 by Isiah Victor vs. Illinois State (3/12/98)
4 by Terry Crosby vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)

Minutes
45 by Gary Carter vs. VCU (3/15/81)
45 by Dale Ellis, vs. VCU (3/15/81)

Team NCAA Tournament Records

Points
97 vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)

Field Goals Made
36 vs. Furman (3/6/80)
36 vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)

Field Goal Attempts
79 vs. Illinois State (3/12/77)

Field Goal Percentage
56.8 (21-37) vs. Marquette (3/18/83)

3-Pt Field Goals Made
10 vs. West Virginia (3/16/89)

3-Pt Field Goal Attempts
31 vs. West Virginia (3/16/89)

3-Pt Field Goal Percentage
41.2 (7-17) vs. Connecticut (3/19/00)

Free Throws Made
25 vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)

Free Throw Attempts
33 vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)

Free Throw Percentage
92.9 (13-14) vs. Maryland (3/8/80)

Offensive Rebounds
20 vs. Illinois State (3/12/98)

Defensive Rebounds
32 vs. Delaware (3/12/99)

Total Rebounds
53 vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)

Personal Fouls
29 vs. Furman (3/6/80)
29 vs. Notre Dame (3/11/79)

Assists
27 vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)

Turnovers (Low)
8 vs. Connecticut (3/19/00)
8 vs. VCU (3/15/81)

Turnovers (High)
26 vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)

Blocks
7 vs. Illinois State (3/12/98)

Steals
12 vs. Louisville (3/20/83)
12 vs. VMI (3/13/76)

Points (1st Half)
44 vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)

Points (2nd Half)
53 vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)

Points (Overtime)
10 vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)

NCAA Tournament Individual Single-Game Scoring

36	Ernie Grunfeld vs. VMI (3/13/76)
28	Reggie Johnson vs. Furman (3/6/80)
26	Ernie Grunfeld vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)
24	Michael Brooks vs. Virginia (3/14/82)
23	Brandon Wharton vs. Illinois State (3/12/98)
23	Dale Ellis vs. SW Louisiana (3/12/82)
23	Bernard King vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)
23	Ron Widby vs. Indiana (3/18/67)
22	Dyron Nix vs. West Virginia (3/16/89)
22	Dale Ellis vs. VCU (3/15/81)
21	Reggie Johnson vs. Maryland (3/8/80)
21	Gary Carter vs Maryland (3/8/80)
20	Dale Ellis vs. Marquette (3/18/83)
20	Reggie Johnson vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)
20	Ron Widby vs. Dayton (3/17/67)

NCAA Tournament Individual Single-Game Rebounding

14	Isiah Victor vs. Delaware (3/12/99)
14	Reggie Johnson vs. Furman (3/6/80)
12	Ernie Grunfeld vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)
12	Bernard King vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)
11	Rashard Lee vs. Illinois State (3/12/98)
11	Gary Carter vs. Eastern Kentucky (3/9/79)
10	Vincent Yarbrough vs. Charlotte (3/16/01)
10	Doug Roth vs. West Virginia (3/10/89)
10	Reggie Johnson vs. Syracuse (3/13/77)

1967 NCAA Mideast Region — Regional Semifinal

Tennessee (21-6) **52**
Dayton (23-5) **53**

March 17, 1967 • McGaw Hall • Evanston, Illinois

A cold shooting first half was too much for Tennessee to overcome as the Volunteers fell 53-52 to Dayton in their first NCAA Tournament appearance.

Tennessee trailed 36-25 at the break as Dayton hit 58 percent from the field compared to the Vols' 23 percent. Tennessee hit only seven buckets in 31 attempts. Tennessee fought back, though, and whittled the lead down to 50-48 with 8:01 left on the clock when both teams started holding the ball.

The Vols had possession of the ball and were looking for the perfect shot to tie the game, but Tom Boerwinkle was called for walking, and Dayton took over possession.

Tennessee regained possession when Billy Hann came up with a steal with 3:10 remaining. Bill Justus then knotted the score at 50 when he hit a jumper with just over two minutes left in the game.

Dayton then held the ball looking for a game winning shot. The Vols forced the issue with 24 seconds remaining and fouled Bobby Joe Hooper. Hooper was good on one of his free throw attempts giving the Vols a chance for the final shot and the win.

The man picked to take the shot was Ron Widby, who had hit the game-winning shot against Mississippi State in the Vols' regular season finale to clinch the SEC championship

But Widby's jumper from 20-feet was off the mark, and Dayton eventually regained possession. Two free throws later, the Flyers led 53-50. Widby hit an uncontested lay-up at the buzzer to finish the scoring.

"Somebody has to take the last shot," Widby said. "I never mind the pressure. I thought the ball was going in."

The Vols held All-America Don May, who came into the game averaging 22 points, to nine points on 2-of-10 shooting, but the guard duo of Hooper and Gene Klaus led the Flyers with 14 and 12, respectively. They shot a combined 11-of-14 from the field.

"We did a fine defensive job on May, but got beat by the outside shooting of their guards," UT head coach Ray Mears said. "They surprised us. We just didn't think they could shoot so well from long range."

Widby finished with a game-high 20 points to pace four Vols in double figures.

NOTES: Dayton advanced to the national championship game before falling 79-64 to UCLA ... The Vols won the SEC championship with a 15-3 record.

VISITORS: Tennessee 21-6

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP
15	Ron Widby	f	7-20	6-7	4	2	20
20	Tom Hendrix	f	5-11	0-0	1	2	10
34	Tom Boerwinkle	c	4-7	2-3	9	5	10
42	Bill Justus	g	4-9	2-3	5	2	10
14	Bill Hann	g	0-4	1-1	2	0	1
24	Wes Coffman		0-0	0-0	0	0	0
50	David Bell		0-1	1-2	2	0	1
	TEAM				4		
	Totals		20-52	12-16	27	11	52

TOTAL FG% Game: 38.5%
F Throw% Game: 75.0%

HOME TEAM: Dayton 23-5

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP
33	Dan Sadlier	f	4-4	2-2	1	4	10
21	Donald May	f	2-10	5-5	14	2	9
31	Dan Obrovac	c	1-2	1-2	4	2	3
14	Gene Klaus	g	5-7	2-2	0	0	12
42	Bobby Joe Hooper	g	6-7	2-2	2	0	14
22	Rudy Waterman		2-3	0-0	0	0	4
43	Glinder Torain		0-2	1-1	3	2	1
	TEAM				1		
	Total		24-35	13-14	25	10	53

TOTAL FG% Game: 57.1%
F Throw% Game: 92.9%

Officials: Phil Fox, Mike Ditimasio
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: not available

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	25	27	52
Dayton	36	17	53

1967 NCAA Mideast Region — Regional Consolation

Indiana (18-8) **51**
Tennessee (21-7) **44**

March 18, 1967 • McGaw Hall • Evanston, Illinois

Tennessee struggled from the field in a 51-44 defeat at the hands of Indiana in the NCAA Tournament consolation game for the Volunteers.

The Vols stayed close throughout the game and had as much as a three-point lead in the second half, but eventually faltered down the stretch. Tennessee connected on 14-of-46 shots from the field for 30.7 percent. Indiana did not fair much better at 37.2 percent, but dominated the boards 43 to 27.

A short jumper from Ron Widby gave the Vols an 18-16 lead with just over five minutes left in the first half. Indiana then went into a stall in attempt to take the last shot of the half. They eventually got a bucket from Bill Joyner to tie the score. Tennessee failed to score on its next possession, and Vernon Payne gave the Hoosiers a 20-18 lead. Bill Justus hit a jumper at the halftime buzzer to pull the Vols even.

Justus hit two free throws in the opening minutes of the second half to give the Vols a 27-24 advantage, but Indiana outscored the Vols 21-11 to open up a 45-38 lead.

Justus and Widby hit back-to-back buckets for the Vols to cut the lead to three, but Russell and Jack Johnson hit two free throws each to put the game out of reach.

The game was physical from the start which did not suit the playing style of Tennessee.

"We played as hard as we could under the conditions," Tennessee coach Ray Mears said. "They are taking the finesse out of the game when they depend on brute strength. We were not real sharp, but there were a lot of bumps and bruises out there."

NOTES: Indiana coach Lou Watson signed a scholarship with Tennessee coach John Mauer in 1946, but eventually played at Indiana ... Widby was named to the all-tournament team ... Widby scored 619 points during the 1966-67 season which was the most ever by a Vol. He surpassed the mark of 522 set by Carl Widseth during the 1955-56 season ... Widby averaged 22.1 points a game which was tops in the SEC ... Indiana was the Big Ten champion.

VISITORS: Indiana 18-8

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	TO
34	Harry Joyner	f	5-10	0-2	8	3	10	
33	Ken Johnson	f	2-7	5-5	7	4	9	
31	William DeHeer	c	4-8	5-8	16	3	13	
23	Vernon Payne	g	2-6	4-5	2	3	8	
22	William Russell	g	3-11	4-4	5	2	10	
44	Earl Schneider		0-0	0-0	0	1	0	
24	Vernon Pfaff		0-1	1-1	1	1	1	
	TEAM				4			
	Totals		16-43	19-25	43	17	51	15

TOTAL FG% Game: 37.2%
F Throw% Game: 76.0%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 21-7

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	TO
53	Ron Widby	f	8-19	7-9	9	4	23	
21	Tom Hendrix	f	2-7	0-2	1	5	4	
35	Tom Boerwinkle	c	1-5	0-1	7	4	2	
43	Bill Justus	g	3-12	7-7	4	2	13	
15	Bill Hann	g	0-1	2-2	1	0	2	
25	Wes Coffman		0-1	0-0	0	1	0	
55	David Bell		0-1	0-0	0	1	0	
	TEAM				5			
	Totals		14-46	16-21	27	17	44	10

TOTAL FG% Game: 30.4%
F Throw% Game: 76.2%

Officials: Bill Fidgen, Phil Fox
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: 7,419

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	21	23	44
Indiana	21	30	51

1976 NCAA East Region — First Round

Tennessee (21-6) **75**
VMI (21-9) **81**

March 13, 1976 • Charlotte Coliseum • Charlotte, North Carolina

VMI placed five players in double figures and shot a sizzling 66 percent from the field to upset the Volunteers 81-75 in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Bernie was missing from the Ernie and Bernie Show in this game as Bernard King was out of action with a injured left thumb. Ernie Grunfeld held up his end of the show as he poured in 36 points and grabbed eight rebounds.

"I'm not embarrassed that we lost to VMI," Grunfeld said. "I'm never embarrassed if we try and we tried hard. We just didn't get enough done. We can't let them shoot like that and expect to win."

Grunfeld scored 12 straight points for Tennessee to close the first half, and the Vols had as much as a six-point lead during that stretch.

The scored stood tied at 60 with 5:42 left in the game when the Keydets reeled off eight unanswered points. Tennessee had three shots blocked during that stretch, and Dave Montgomery scored six of the eight points for VMI. Two free throws from Austin Clarke pulled the Vols to within 70-67 with 2:08 remaining, but the Vols could get no closer.

Tennessee coach Ray Mears made a move at halftime in hopes to give the Vols an emotional lift as King dressed out.

"We let him dress out to see if it would give us a mental lift," Mears said. "I wasn't about to play him. We were not going to risk his future. Most of you don't realize how much he means to us. We were just hoping to get through this first game."

Will Bynum led the Keydets with 20 points, followed by 19 from Ron Carter. John Krovic added 17, Curt Reppart tossed in 11, and Montgomery finished with 10.

Mike Jackson was the only other Vol in double figures with 14 points.

NOTES: VMI lost 91-75 to Rutgers in the Regional Semifinals.

VISITORS: Tennessee 21-6

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Ernie Grunfeld	f	13-23	10-13	8	3	36	0	5	0	3	40
25	Mike Jackson	f	5-13	4-5	1	5	14	0	4	0	1	39
43	Doug Ashworth	c	3-6	0-0	3	2	6	2	1	0	3	31
34	Austin Clark	g	3-9	3-3	8	5	9	3	0	0	1	39
10	Johnny Darden	g	4-8	0-0	1	2	8	6	1	0	3	40
30	Terry Crosby		0-2	0-2	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	10
41	Mike Smithson		1-1	0-0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	1
	TEAM				2							
	Totals		29-62	17-23	25	20	75	11	13	0	12	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 13-27 48.1% 2nd Half: 16-35 45.7% Game: 46.8%
F Throw% 1st Half: 12-17 70.6% 2nd Half: 5-6 83.3% Game: 73.9%

HOME TEAM: VMI 21-9

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
13	Ron Carter	f	8-11	3-6	14	4	19	5	6	2	1	39
20	Curt Reppart	f	5-7	1-3	1	2	11	5	5	0	1	39
22	John Krovic	c	6-9	5-5	2	0	17	5	1	0	0	37
30	Will Bynum	g	8-14	4-4	4	4	20	0	2	0	1	33
45	Dave Montgomery	g	4-5	2-4	6	4	10	0	1	1	2	27
42	George Borojevich		2-4	0-0	5	3	4	0	3	0	0	19
40	Kelly Lombard		0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
52	Pat Kelley		0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	1
	TEAM				0							
	Totals		33-50	15-22	32	19	81	15	22	3	5	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 18-27 66.7% 2nd Half: 15-23 65.2% Game: 66.0%
F Throw% 1st Half: 1-3 33.3% 2nd Half: 14-19 73.7% Game: 68.2%

Officials: Robert Korte, Jim Bain
Technical fouls: Tennessee: Bench, Darden; VMI: Bench
Attendance: 11,666

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	38	37	75
VMI	37	44	81

1977 NCAA Mideast Region — First Round

Tennessee (22-6) **88**
Syracuse (26-3) **ot 93**

March 13, 1977 • Assembly Center • Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Syracuse posted a 93-88 overtime victory to put an end to the Ernie and Bernie Show at Tennessee.

Things looked good early for Tennessee as the Vols raced out to a 20-10 lead against a pressing Syracuse defense. But the Orangemen regained their composure and eventually tied the score at 32 with just under five minutes left in the first half.

Tennessee held strong, though, and an Ernie Grunfeld jumper put the Vols up eight at 47-39 with 17:51 left in the second half. Syracuse then staged a 14-2 run over the next five minutes to take a 53-49 advantage.

Syracuse held a 78-74 lead with 1:31 left in the second half, but Reggie Johnson hit a short jumper and converted two free throws to tie the game. Larry Kelley's shot at the end of regulation could have won the game for the Orangemen, but it was off the mark.

A Ross Kindel steal and layup gave Syracuse an 86-80 lead with 2:03 left in the overtime. Syracuse then hit 7-of-9 free throws in the final minute of the overtime to seal the victory.

"We didn't score when we needed to score," Tennessee coach Ray Mears said. "The break worked well early then went dry. Our game is based on King, Grunfeld and Jackson playing 40 minutes each. Maybe that is a fallacy. If you live by that idea, you die by it."

It certainly hurt the Vols as Grunfeld, Bernard King and Mike Jackson all watched the end of the game from the bench. Not helping matters were the 26 turnovers the Vols had.

Grunfeld led the Vols with 26 points and 12 rebounds, King tossed in 23 and also grabbed 12 rebounds. Reggie Johnson added 17 points and 10 rebounds.

"I hope what happened against Syracuse won't wash out the things we've done all year," King said. "It was a great year for me and the team."

NOTES: The 22 wins by the Vols set a school record at that time ... Tennessee won a share of the SEC championship along with Kentucky ... Syracuse was being coached by first-year coach Jim Boeheim ... Syracuse lost 81-59 to UNC-Charlotte in the Regional Semifinals to finish its season 26-4.

VISITORS: Tennessee 22-6

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Ernie Grunfeld	f	10-16	6-11	12	5	26	4	6	0	1	44
53	Bernard King	f	8-19	7-8	12	5	23	2	9	0	0	38
32	Reggie Johnson	c	6-12	5-5	10	4	17	0	1	2	0	36
24	Johnny Darden	g	3-8	0-0	1	1	6	12	6	0	1	41
25	Mike Jackson	g	6-13	0-0	3	5	12	5	1	0	0	30
30	Terry Crosby		0-4	0-0	3	2	0	4	3	0	0	15
33	Chuck Threeths		0-0	0-0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
10	Bert Bertelkamp		2-3	0-0	0	3	4	0	0	0	0	5
	TEAM				1							
	Totals		35-75	18-24	44	27	88	27	26	3	2	225

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-33 48.4% 2nd Half: 19-42 45.0% Game: 46.6%
F Throw% 1st Half: 6-7 85.7% 2nd Half: 12-17 71.0% Game: 75.0%

HOME TEAM: Syracuse 26-3

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
33	Dale Shackleford	f	3-4	1-5	9	4	7	4	4	0	2	29
44	Marty Byrnes	f	4-9	7-7	11	2	15	1	3	2	0	41
50	Roosevelt Bouie	c	3-8	2-2	4	5	8	0	3	2	0	25
11	Larry Kelley	g	9-15	4-4	2	1	22	3	4	0	0	37
22	James Williams	g	7-13	2-2	1	2	16	7	5	0	0	27
20	Ross Kindel		5-9	2-3	2	2	12	3	3	0	2	26
55	Louis Orr		2-6	2-4	9	5	6	3	3	1	0	28
35	Bill Drew		2-4	3-4	2	1	7	2	0	0	0	10
53	Robert Parker		0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	TEAM				1				2			
	Totals		35-69	23-32	42	23	93	23	25	5	4	225

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 14-37 37.8% 2nd Half: 21-32 66.0% Game: 50.7%
F Throw% 1st Half: 7-10 70.0% 2nd Half: 16-22 73.0% Game: 71.9%

Officials: Burch, Richard
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: 5,965

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Tennessee	38	40	10	88
Syracuse	35	43	15	93

1979 NCAA Mideast Region — First Round

#9 **Eastern Kentucky** (21-8) **81**
#8 **Tennessee** (21-11) **97**

March 9, 1979 • Murphy Athletic Center • Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Tennessee turned an early 10-point deficit into a 44-38 halftime lead and eventually turned in a 97-81 victory over the Colonels. This was Tennessee's first ever win in the NCAA Tournament.

The Vols fell behind 15-5 in the first five minutes of the game before finally getting things on track. Gary Carter made three consecutive field goals to spark a Tennessee rally and pull the Vols within 16-13. Johnny Darden then hit a long jumper, and the Vols had the Colonel lead to one.

Eastern Kentucky regained its composure and had the lead back out to 30-26 with 4:44 left in the first half.

Terry Crosby then reeled off three consecutive buckets for the Vols, and Tennessee held a 32-30 advantage with just under four minutes left in the half.

"This game was won in the final eight minutes of the first half," Tennessee coach Don DeVoe said. "By getting the ball to Terry Crosby, we were able to turn it around. We played poorly in the first 10 minutes but our kids snapped out of it."

The game was still close five minutes into the second half, but Tennessee went on an 18-6 run to turn a 54-50 lead into a 72-56 advantage with 8:21 left in the game.

"We were too psyched up at the beginning," Reggie Johnson said. "That was a terrible start. We had to come down from our high before we could play."

Johnson led the Vols with 20 points and nine rebounds. Carter added 18 points with a game-high 11 rebounds. Crosby finished the game with 19 points.

James Tillman led Eastern Kentucky with 21 points. He was one of five Colonels in double figures as Dave Tierney netted 13, Bruce Jones had 12, and Vic Merchant and Kenney added 11 each.

NOTES: Eastern Kentucky was the Ohio Valley Conference champion.

VISITORS: Eastern Kentucky 21-8

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
05	James Tillman	f	7-17	7-8	8	3	21	0	4	0	0	40
22	Vic Merchant	f	4-10	3-5	6	4	11	1	2	0	1	33
35	Dave Bootcheck	c	1-2	0-0	3	5	2	0	0	1	0	10
10	Kenny Elliott	g	5-12	1-2	2	0	11	3	2	1	0	34
11	Bruce Jones	g	6-19	0-1	2	2	12	9	8	0	2	33
12	Dave Tierney		6-9	1-2	4	3	13	1	0	0	1	16
20	Donnie Moore		1-2	1-1	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
33	Chris Williams		2-4	0-0	1	1	4	1	0	0	0	7
44	Dale Jenkins		2-5	0-0	9	5	4	1	1	0	1	24
	TEAM				2							
	Totals		34-80	13-19	39	23	81	16	17	2	5	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-36 44.4% 2nd Half: 18-44 41.0% Game: 42.5%
F Throw% 1st Half: 6-12 50.0% 2nd Half: 7-7 100.0% Game: 68.4%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 21-11

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
25	Terry Crosby	f	7-12	4-4	6	3	19	4	3	0	4	36
32	Reggie Johnson	f	6-14	8-12	9	4	20	2	3	0	0	27
44	Howard Wood	c	3-5	1-2	5	2	7	0	1	1	0	12
10	Bert Bertelkamp	g	1-1	0-0	1	3	2	3	2	0	1	14
30	Gary Carter	g	7-13	4-4	11	1	18	4	2	0	1	37
14	Terry Glenn		1-2	0-0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	3
20	Mike Stapleton		0-0	0-0	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	3
21	James Meriweather		1-2	0-0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	3
23	Kenne Teffeteller		0-0	2-2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	4
24	Johnny Darden		3-5	2-2	3	1	8	6	2	0	2	23
31	Chuck Threeths		5-9	1-2	8	2	11	0	3	0	0	24
43	Kevin Nash		2-4	1-2	3	0	5	0	2	0	0	10
53	Steve Ray		0-1	1-2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4
	TEAM				3							
	Totals		36-68	25-33	53	18	97	19	21	1	8	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-33 48.4% 2nd Half: 20-35 57.1% Game: 52.9%
F Throw% 1st Half: 12-15 80.0% 2nd Half: 13-18 72.2% Game: 75.7%

Officials: Paul Houseman, Rich Ballesteros, Dan Nicksich
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: 10,982

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Eastern Kentucky	38	44	81
Tennessee	44	53	97

1979 NCAA Mideast Region — Second Round

#1 **Notre Dame** (23-5) **73**
#8 **Tennessee** (21-12) **67**

March 11, 1979 • Murphy Athletic Center • Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Notre Dame outscored the Vols 14-4 to open the second half to turn a 32-32 halftime tie into a 46-36 lead. Tennessee got no closer than five points the rest of the game and fell 73-67 to the Irish.

"It was one of our poorest games in terms of poise and concentration," Tennessee coach Don DeVoe said. "We hustled and worked the boards hard in the first half, but Notre Dame made us play as if we were scared in the first two minutes of the second half."

Notre Dame opened the second half with a full-court press forcing four Tennessee turnovers in the first 2:05 of the second half.

"We noted that Tennessee made 21 turnovers against Eastern Kentucky so our staff decided to go right after them with the press," Notre Dame coach Digger Phelps said. "We played it loosely at the start then went to a closer press with a quick-trap. That forced some turnovers and gave us some breathing room."

Both Terry Crosby and Reggie Johnson had poor games shooting the ball for the Vols. They combined to hit 7-of-21 field goal attempts. Johnson also missed five of his 10 free throw attempts.

"Neither Terry Crosby and Reggie Johnson had a good offensive game," DeVoe said. "When that happens, we have problems."

Johnson finished with 13 points, eight below his season average. Gary Carter led the Vols with 16 points. Chuck Threeths added 10 points and eight rebounds.

"I was taking normal shots, but there was a lid on the basket," Crosby said. "Almost any night we play, Reggie and I have to have good games offensively for us to win. Neither of us scored as we must to win."

NOTES: Tennessee had won nine consecutive games before losing to the Irish, including two games in the SEC Tournament on its way to the tournament championship ... Notre Dame lost 80-68 to Michigan State in the Regional Finals ... 1979 was the first year tournament seeding was used.

VISITORS: Notre Dame 23-5

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
44	Kelly Tripucka	f	6-7	9-10	3	2	21	0	0	0	1	29
32	Orlando Woolridge	f	4-7	0-1	6	4	8	0	1	0	3	28
34	Bruce Flowers	c	3-4	0-0	4	5	6	0	2	1	1	17
12	Rich Branning	g	3-9	0-0	1	3	6	1	2	0	0	20
42	Bill Hanzlik	g	6-10	4-4	1	4	16	0	1	1	2	28
15	Mike Mitchell		0-1	0-0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	4
24	Stan Wilcox		0-0	0-0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	6
30	Tracy Jackson		1-8	2-6	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	23
52	Bill Laimbeer		2-3	8-11	12	3	12	0	2	1	0	29
	TEAM				4							
	Total		25-49	23-32	33	24	73	2	11	3	7	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 14-27 51.9% 2nd Half: 11-22 50% Game: 51.0%
F Throw% 1st Half: 4-5 80.0% 2nd Half: 19-27 70.4% Game: 71.9%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 21-12

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
25	Terry Crosby	f	3-10	2-2	5	2	8	2	0	0	1	39
32	Reggie Johnson	f	4-11	5-10	5	5	13	0	2	0	0	26
44	Howard Wood	c	4-7	0-0	7	3	8	0	3	0	0	15
10	Bert Bertelkamp	g	0-1	0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	7
30	Gary Carter	g	7-16	2-3	7	5	16	0	4	0	2	38
23	Kenne Teffeteller		0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	Johnny Darden		4-6	2-4	2	4	10	2	3	0	1	34
31	Chuck Threeths		4-8	2-4	8	2	10	0	2	0	0	29
43	Kevin Nash		0-1	2-2	0	5	2	0	2	0	1	7
53	Steve Ray		0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
	TEAM				9							
	Totals		26-60	15-25	44	29	67	4	16	0	5	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 13-32 40.6% 2nd Half: 13-28 46.4% Game: 43.3%
F Throw% 1st Half: 6-13 46.2% 2nd Half: 9-12 75.0% Game: 60.0%

Officials: Not available
Technical fouls: Not available
Attendance: 10,982

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Notre Dame	32	41	73
Tennessee	32	35	67

1980 NCAA East Region — First Round

#10	**Furman** (23-7)	**69**
#7	**Tennessee** (18-10)	**80**

March 6, 1980 • Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, North Carolina

A change in the starting lineup proved fruitful for the Vols as they posted an 80-69 victory over the Palladins.

The Vols inserted Steve Ray and Chuck Threeths in the starting lineup for Dale Ellis and Kevin Nash, respectively. The change was made so the Vols could use their quickness against Furman's man-to-man defense. The strategy worked.

Tennessee was able to get the fastbreak going early with the lineup change and jumped out to a quick 8-2 lead. Furman rallied, though, with a 13-4 scoring spree to hold a 15-12 advantage with 13:08 remaining in the first half.

But two baskets by Howard Wood, a layup from Nash and two free throws from Reggie Johnson gave the Vols a 20-15 lead with just under 10 minutes left in the half. It was all Tennessee from there on out.

"The way we came out and clicked and got our open shots to drop made all the difference in the world," Nash said. "It gave us the feeling we weren't going to lose."

Adding to Furman's woes was a poor performance from the free-throw line. Furman's starters entered the game shooting better than 70 percent from the line. Furman hit only 17-of-32 free throws for 53 percent.

"We missed a potential 13 points at the line in the first half, and that was the difference in the game," Furman coach Eddie Holbrook said. "Almost everything that went wrong in this game goes back to the free throws. Once we got behind, we got out of what we wanted to do."

Tennessee held a 40-29 lead at the halftime break, and Furman trimmed it down to 49-41. But three straight baskets by Wood capped a 9-2 run that broke the game open. Tennessee led by as many as 21 points in the second half.

Wood was one of three Vols in double figures with 19 points. Reggie Johnson had a game-high 28 points along with 14 rebounds. Jonathan Moore led Furman with 22 points and 17 rebounds.

NOTES: Future Vol assistant coach Michael Hunt (1994-97) was on the Furman team ... Furman's berth in the NCAA Tournament came via its Southern Conference championship.

VISITORS: Furman 23-7

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
55	Ronald White	f	3-7	2-5	0	0	8	0	1	1	0	24
42	Rick McKinney	f	3-6	5-8	6	1	11	0	3	0	0	26
25	Jonathan Moore	c	9-14	4-8	17	3	22	1	3	1	1	30
20	Mel Daniel	g	6-9	3-5	1	4	15	4	4	0	2	30
22	Michael Hunt	g	2-6	0-1	1	3	4	1	5	0	0	30
35	Reggie Small		1-3	0-0	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	14
31	Dale Crowe		0-2	2-2	0	3	2	3	1	0	0	13
24	Tobe Jackson		1-5	0-0	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	7
51	Randy Butler		0-1	0-0	0	3	0	0	2	0	0	7
44	William Hanks		1-3	1-3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	9
Team					5							
Totals			26-56	17-32	35	18	69	11	19	3	3	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 11-25 44.0% 2nd Half: 15-3 48.4% Game: 46.4%
F Throw% 1st Half: 7-16 43.8% 2nd Half: 10-16 62.5% Game: 53.1%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 18-10

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
32	Reggie Johnson	f	13-19	2-2	14	2	28	3	4	3	1	37
53	Steve Ray	f	0-3	0-0	2	5	0	1	0	1	1	28
31	Chuck Threeths	c	1-3	0-0	5	3	2	1	2	0	0	10
30	Gary Carter	g	6-8	1-2	6	4	13	6	4	0	1	34
10	Bert Bertelkamp	g	1-5	1-3	1	5	3	8	1	0	2	19
41	Dale Ellis		1-6	0-0	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	14
44	Howard Wood		9-11	1-2	5	3	19	1	2	0	0	25
43	Kevin Nash		3-7	0-2	8	4	6	0	0	0	0	8
15	Ralph Parton		2-5	3-5	1	3	7	4	3	0	1	19
24	Michael Poole		0-2	0-0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	5
34	Anthony Love		0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Team					1							
Totals			36-69	8-16	47	29	80	26	16	4	6	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 19-43 44.2% 2nd Half: 17-26 65.4% Game: 50.7%
F Throw% 1st Half: 2-4 50.0% 2nd Half: 6-12 50.0% Game: 50.0%

Officials: Turner, Watson, Ballesteros
Technical fouls: Tennessee: Don DeVoe
Attendance: 6,865

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Furman	29	40	69
Tennessee	40	40	80

1980 NCAA East Region — Second Round

#7	**Tennessee** (18-11)	**75**
#2	**Maryland** (24-6)	**86**

March 8, 1980 • Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, North Carolina

Foul trouble for Reggie Johnson spelled doom for Tennessee, as Maryland posted an 86-75 victory over Tennessee.

"When you have a team that relies on one man to score and he gets in foul trouble, your team is in serious trouble," Tennessee coach Don DeVoe said. "When Reggie doesn't play, you don't win."

Tennessee was rolling in the first half, and Johnson was nearly unstoppable. He scored 17 points in the game's first 14 minutes to help Tennessee to a 29-18 lead. Johnson picked up his second foul of the game with just under three minutes left in the first half, but Tennessee still held a 40-32 advantage at the break.

Johnson scored two buckets in the opening minutes of the second half, and the Vols led 46-39 with 16:23 left in the game. Then, in a matter of 10 seconds, Johnson got whistled for his third and fourth fouls and went to the bench with 15:06 left in the game. He didn't score again.

"I guarantee we got the short end of the officiating in the second half," DeVoe said. "You don't win in the tournament play when you get the short end. The two fouls on Johnson were the turning point."

Greg Manning pulled the Terrapins even at 50 with a rebound basket at the 13:26 mark in the second half. Maryland eventually pulled out to a 70-62 lead, but the Vols rallied back and pulled within 78-75 on a short jumper from Howard Wood with 45 seconds remaining. Manning then had back-to-back three-point plays for Maryland to squelch any Vol hopes for a victory.

Gary Carter also had 21 points for the Vols along with eight rebounds. Bert Bertelkamp dished out a career-high 16 assists against only two turnovers in 39 minutes of action.

Manning led Maryland with 28 points to pace four Terrapins in double figures. Albert King added 20, Buck Williams 19 and Ernest Graham 14. Maryland also shot a hot 63.2 percent from the field compared to 47 percent for Tennessee.

NOTES: Maryland's Albert King is the brother of former Vol All-America Bernard King ... Maryland lost in the Regional Semifinals 74-68 to Georgetown.

VISITORS: Tennessee 18-11

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
32	Reggie Johnson	f	10-17	1-1	4	5	21	0	1	0	0	25
53	Steve Ray	f	0-3	0-0	2	3	0	1	0	0	0	17
31	Chuck Threeths	c	0-2	0-0	5	3	0	0	2	0	0	19
10	Bert Bertelkamp	g	3-8	2-2	2	5	8	16	2	0	0	39
30	Gary Carter	g	7-12	7-7	8	1	21	3	1	0	1	40
41	Dale Ellis		3-6	1-2	2	5	7	0	0	0	1	22
43	Kevin Nash		2-4	2-2	3	2	6	0	0	0	0	11
15	Ralph Parton		0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
24	Michael Poole		0-1	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
44	Howard Wood		6-13	0-0	4	0	12	0	2	1	2	25
	TEAM				0							
	Totals		31-66	13-14	30	25	75	20	9	1	4	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-32 50.0% 2nd Half: 15-34 44.1% Game: 47.0%
F Throw% 1st Half: 8-9 88.9% 2nd Half: 5-5 100.0% Game: 92.9%

HOME TEAM: Maryland 24-6

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
55	Albert King	f	10-16	0-0	6	2	20	3	6	0	1	40
25	Ernest Graham	f	5-8	4-7	9	3	14	5	3	0	0	39
52	Buck Williams	c	8-13	3-6	9	5	19	0	1	2	0	38
10	Greg Manning	g	11-15	6-7	3	0	28	3	1	0	1	39
15	Reggie Jackson	g	2-4	1-5	4	2	5	10	2	0	2	35
21	Dutch Morley		0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
54	Taylor Baldwin		0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
	TEAM				4							
	Totals		36-57	14-25	36	13	86	21	13	3	4	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 14-23 60.9% 2nd Half: 22-34 64.7% Game: 63.2%
F Throw% 1st Half: 4-7 57.1% 2nd Half: 10-18 55.6% Game: 56.0%

Officials: Pavia, Tate, Dibler
Technical fouls: Maryland: Lefty Driesell; Tennessee: Don DeVoe
Attendance: 13,210

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	40	35	75
Maryland	32	54	86

1981 NCAA East Region — Second Round

#5	**VCU** (24-5)	**ot**	**56**
#4	**Tennessee** (21-7)		**58**

March 15, 1981 • Charlotte Coliseum • Charlotte, North Carolina

Dale Ellis drilled a 15-foot jumper at the buzzer to lift Tennessee to a 58-56 overtime victory over Virginia Commonwealth.

"I just stood there after I shot that ball," Ellis said. "That was the greatest feeling to make that shot."

Ellis' shot was the only shot taken in the five-minute extra period. Virginia Commonwealth got the opening tip in overtime and stalled away the first half of the period. The Rams lost their chance at attempting a shot when Steve Ray forced Danny Kottak out-of-bounds.

Tennessee then held the ball the second half of overtime and called a timeout with 19 seconds remaining. Michael Brooks passed the ball over to Ellis with five seconds remaining, and the sophomore from Marietta, Ga., hit the game-winner. Ellis was not the Vols' first option to take the shot, though.

"The ball was supposed to come to me, and I was supposed to pass it to Howard (Wood) in the corner," Ellis said. "It was Howard that kept us in the game, and it's usually (him) who takes the final shot."

The play was the same play the Vols ran at the end of regulation in attempt to make the game-winner. But Ellis threw an ill-advised pass to Steve Ray, and the Vols lost their opportunity to win at the end of regulation.

Tennessee coach Don DeVoe told Ellis to go with the shot if the opportunity arose again. It did, and Ellis made good.

"I don't think there's been a bigger shot in Tennessee basketball in a long time than the one Dale Ellis made," DeVoe said. "We were able to make the play at the end because they gave us the opportunity by making a turnover."

Overtime looked unlikely as Tennessee built a 14-point first half lead and led 38-25 at the start of the second half on a dunk by Ellis. The Rams erased the last two points of the deficit with a bucket from Kottak with 2:24 left in the second half to put the score at 56-56 which eventually forced the overtime.

Ellis finished with 22 points, and Howard Wood 18. Greg McRay led the Rams with 23 points on 10-of-14 shooting.

NOTES: Tennessee received a first-round bye in the 1981 NCAA Tournament ... Tennessee's victory ended Virginia Commonwealth's 16-game winning streak which was the longest in the nation.

VISITORS: Virginia Commonwealth 24-5

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
21	Danny Kottak	f	5-7	0-0	2	3	10	2	4	0	1	43
54	Greg McCray	f	10-14	3-5	8	4	23	1	2	1	1	44
30	Kenny Stancell	c	0-3	1-3	5	2	1	0	2	2	1	43
10	Monty Knight	g	5-11	2-2	3	1	12	4	2	1	0	41
25	Edmund Sherod	g	4-8	2-2	5	1	10	3	2	0	0	45
44	Greg Shropshire		0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
41	Don Jones		0-0	0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	Stanley Davis		0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	TEAM				2							
	Totals		24-43	8-12	25	12	56	10	12	4	3	225

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 10-20 50% 2nd Half: 14-23 60.9% Game: 55.8%
F Throw% 1st Half: 5-8 62.5% 2nd Half: 3-4 75.0% Game: 66.7%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 21-7

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
14	Dale Ellis	f	10-13	2-2	5	3	22	0	1	1	0	45
53	Steve Ray	f	0-4	0-0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	29
44	Howard Wood	c	7-13	4-5	4	3	18	4	2	0	0	41
12	Ed Littleton	g	3-4	0-0	0	1	6	4	1	0	1	24
30	Gary Carter	g	5-11	0-0	5	1	10	5	2	0	3	45
21	Michael Brooks		0-2	0-0	1	1	0	3	2	0	0	37
40	Willie Burton		1-1	0-0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4
	TEAM				1							
	Totals		26-48	6-7	19	12	58	17	8	1	4	225

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 16-26 61.5% 2nd Half: 8-22 36.4% Game: 54.2%
F Throw% 1st Half: 4-4 100% 2nd Half: 2-3 66.7% Game: 85.7%

Officials: Burrell Crowell, Tom Fraim, Robert Herrold
Technical fouls: Tennessee: Ellis
Attendance: 11,443

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Virginia Commonwealth	25	31	0	56
Tennessee	36	20	2	58

1981 NCAA East Region — Regional Semifinal

#4	**Tennessee** (21-8)	**48**
#1	**Virginia** (27-3)	**62**

March 19, 1981 • Charlotte Coliseum • Charlotte, North Carolina

Virginia outscored Tennessee 27-4 over a 12-minute span in the second half en route to a 62-48 victory.

Tennessee stayed close in the first half but could never take the lead against the Ralph Sampson-led Cavaliers. The Cavaliers shot 61.5 percent from the field during the first 20 minutes but could only manage a 27-26 lead at the break.

The Vols got things rolling early in the second half. Virginia got the first bucket in the second half with a putback by Jeff Lamp. The Vols then outscored Virginia 10-2 over the next six minutes to hold a 36-31 lead.

Lamp then scored six of the game's next eight points with the other two coming from a jumper by Virginia's Othell Wilson. The Cavaliers led 39-36 with 11:14 left in the game and never looked back.

"We knew Lamp was their money player, but we didn't realize it on the floor today," Tennessee guard Michael Brooks said. "They had a great player who took control, made the great plays and got back and played defense. If he hadn't taken control at that point, they wouldn't have won."

Lamp scored a game-high 18 points. Jeff Jones and Lee Raker added 10 apiece for Virginia. Tennessee did slow down the All-America Sampson by holding him to a season-low nine points and five rebounds. He had only one point and one rebound in the second half.

The sagging defense to stop Sampson may have proved costly for the Vols. Sampson hit on only 4-of-13 shots, but the rest of the Cavaliers combined to hit 20-of-30 for 66.6 percent.

"You may take Ralph out of the offense, but you leave yourself vulnerable somewhere else," Virginia forward Terry Gates said. "Raker and Lamp have thrived off that."

NOTES: Virginia advanced to the Final Four before losing to North Carolina 78-65.

VISITORS: Tennessee 21-8

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
14	Dale Ellis	f	6-12	1-2	9	4	13	1	5	0	0	39
53	Steve Ray	f	2-4	0-0	0	1	4	1	1	0	0	33
44	Howard Wood	c	4-9	0-0	4	1	8	2	3	0	3	39
12	Ed Littleton	g	2-3	0-0	0	3	4	2	1	0	0	13
30	Gary Carter	g	4-9	1-2	4	4	9	2	0	0	0	39
21	Michael Brooks		3-8	0-0	1	2	6	6	3	0	2	27
10	Tyrone Beaman		2-2	0-0	0	3	4	2	0	0	0	7
33	Dan Federmann		0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
34	Anthony Love		0-0	0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
40	Willie Burton		0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	TEAM				1							
	Totals		23-48	2-4	19	18	48	17	13	1	5	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 12-21 57.1% 2nd Half: 11-27 40.7% Game: 47.9%
F Throw% 1st Half: 2-4 50.0% 2nd Half: 0-0 0% Game: 50.0%

HOME TEAM: Virginia 27-3

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03	Jeff Lamp	f	8-11	2-2	5	0	18	2	1	0	0	36
44	Terry Gates	f	2-2	0-0	4	1	4	1	0	0	1	32
50	Ralph Sampson	c	4-13	1-2	5	1	9	1	3	4	1	34
11	Othell Wilson	g	2-3	5-6	2	1	9	2	1	0	1	34
24	Jeff Jones	g	3-6	4-5	3	2	10	5	2	0	4	33
25	Lee Raker		4-5	2-2	3	1	10	0	0	0	1	17
55	Lewis Lattimore		0-0	0-0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	4
10	Craig Robinson		0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
15	Ricky Stokes		1-3	0-0	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	4
23	Jeff Klein		0-0	0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
05	Louis Collins		0-0	0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	TEAM				2							
	Totals		24-43	14-17	27	10	62	11	11	4	9	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 13-23 56.5% 2nd Half: 11-20 55% Game: 55.8%
F Throw% 1st Half: 1-2 50% 2nd Half: 13-15 86.7% Game: 82.4%

Officials: Edgar Cartotto, James Burroughs, Richard Weiler
Technical fouls: none
Attendance: 17,000

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	26	22	48
Virginia	27	35	62

1982 NCAA East Region — First Round

#9	**Tennessee** (20-9)	**61**
#8	**SW Louisiana** (24-8)	**57**

March 12, 1982 • Market Square Arena • Indianapolis, Indiana

Michael Brooks hit six free throws for Tennessee in the game's final minute to secure a 61-57 victory over Southwestern Louisiana.

"We did some things right that assured the win," Tennessee coach Don DeVoe said. "The key was having the lead going into the final five minutes. We had our best foul shooters in the game, and we kept the ball in the best man's hands."

The Vols trailed 35-33 with 16:58 to play. Back-to-back buckets by Tyrone Beaman gave the Vols a 37-35 advantage, but a lay-up from Dion Brown for the Ragin' Cajuns tied the game at 37.

The Vols then outscored Southwestern Louisiana 14-6 over the game's next nine minutes to hold a 51-43 lead with 6:39 left in the game. Two free throws from Dan Gay and a lay-up each from Alford Turner and Johnny Collins off of Vol turnovers cut the margin to 51-49.

Two free throws and a jumper from Dale Ellis opened the margin back up to 55-49 with just under four minutes to go.

"We got the ball to Dale Ellis in the second half," DeVoe said. "Those two turnovers were the turning point that allowed Southwestern Louisiana to come back. They got themselves back in the game because of their ability to persevere."

Ellis finished with a game-high 23 points, and Brooks finished with 16. Turner had 14 points to lead Southwestern Louisiana.

"We expected Ellis to be outstanding, and he certainly was," Southwestern Louisiana coach Bobby Paschal said. "We knew if they had the lead as the clock ran down, it would be difficult. They are an excellent free throw shooting team. Near the end, we knew it was a calculated risk to foul, but there was no other way."

NOTES: Dale Ellis was named the SEC's Player of the Year, and Don DeVoe was named the league's Coach of the Year following the 1982 season.

VISITORS: Tennessee 20-9

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
14	Dale Ellis	f	9-15	5-6	6	3	23	2	4	0	2	40
53	Steve Ray	f	2-5	0-0	4	2	4	2	0	1	2	34
40	Willie Burton	c	1-3	0-0	4	2	2	1	1	0	0	25
10	Tyrone Beaman	g	4-6	0-2	2	3	8	6	2	0	2	30
21	Michael Brooks	g	5-10	6-6	1	4	16	1	5	1	0	33
22	Jerald Hyatt		0-1	2-2	1	0	2	2	1	0	1	17
31	Kevin Woods		1-1	0-0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	6
33	Dan Federmann		2-2	0-0	3	3	4	0	1	0	0	15
	TEAM				6							
	Totals		24-43	13-16	27	17	61	14	14	2	7	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 13-22 59.1% 2nd Half: 11-21 52.4% Game: 55.8%
F Throw% 1st Half: 3-4 75.0% 2nd Half: 10-12 83.3% Game: 81.3%

HOME TEAM: Southwestern Louisiana 24-8

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
21	Dion Brown	f	6-10	1-2	7	3	13	0	1	0	1	38
40	Graylin Warner	f	3-8	0-0	3	4	6	0	3	1	0	35
44	Dan Gay	c	2-7	4-4	4	1	8	1	2	0	1	40
11	Alford Turner	g	4-9	6-9	1	4	14	0	0	1	1	37
15	Johnny Collins	g	5-7	0-0	1	5	10	0	4	0	3	39
33	Alonza Allen		2-4	0-0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	11
	TEAM		1-1		6		2					
	Totals		23-46	11-15	22	17	57	1	12	2	6	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 14-24 58.3% 2nd Half: 9-22 41.0% Game: 50.0%
F Throw% 1st Half: 1-3 33.3% 2nd Half: 10-12 83.3% Game: 73.3%

Officials: Paul Houseman, Denny Bishop, Mickey Crowley
Technical fouls: none
Attendance: 12,206

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	29	32	61
Southwestern Louisiana	29	28	57

1982 NCAA East Region — Second Round

#9	**Tennessee** (20-10)	**51**
#1	**Virginia** (30-3)	**54**

March 14, 1982 • Market Square Arena • Indianapolis, Indiana

Tennessee missed 4-of-5 free throws in the final 3:12, and Virginia's Ricky Stokes hit two with 15 seconds remaining to lift Virginia to a 54-51 victory in a rematch of a 1981 NCAA Tournament game.

Tennessee had made 10 consecutive free throws during the second half, but the shots did not fall during crunch time. Tyrone Beaman missed the front end of a one-and-one and then missed the back end of a one-and-one. Michael Brooks, who hit six straight in the final minute in the first round Vol victory, then missed the front end of a one-and-one. Dan Federmann then followed with a miss.

"When it got down to it, we choked at the foul line," Tennessee coach Don DeVoe said. "We just did not do what it takes internally to win. Stokes just did what we could not do."

The one free throw the Vols did make in the game's closing minutes gave them a 51-47 lead, but Ralph Sampson hit back-to-back buckets to pull the Cavaliers even at 51. Tennessee had a chance to regain the lead, but Federmann missed the front end of his one-and-one. Stokes then made his two to give Virginia a 53-51 lead.

"We had the game under control," Tennessee forward Dale Ellis said. "All we had to do was hit the free throws. That has been a problem."

Tennessee had a chance to tie the game at 53, but the play never developed, and a long jumper by Brooks was off the mark. Jones then hit a free throw for the final margin of victory.

"We had the right person taking the shot," DeVoe said. "Michael was a little anxious. I didn't think the shot was that poor, but we never got into our play."

The Vols got off to a fast start and opened up a 10-point lead at 24-14 in the first half behind 14 points from Brooks. Jones finished the first half by scoring five points in the final 21 seconds to pull Virginia to within 32-25 at the break.

Virginia continued to rally in the second half, and Jones and Sampson sparked a 15-2 rally in the second half to give the Cavaliers a 43-40 lead with 10:41 to go.

Brooks then scored eight straight points for Tennessee to give the Vols a 48-45 lead with 6:11 left in the game.

NOTES: Virginia was upset by Alabama-Birmingham 68-66 in the Region Semifinals.

VISITORS: Tennessee 20-10

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
14	Dale Ellis	f	5-10	6-8	9	5	16	0	1	0	0	37
53	Steve Ray	f	2-3	0-0	3	4	4	3	2	0	0	36
40	Willie Burton	c	0-0	0-0	3	5	0	1	0	0	1	17
10	Tyrone Beaman	g	0-5	1-3	0	4	1	8	2	0	2	37
21	Michael Brooks	g	11-17	2-3	2	1	24	1	0	0	1	40
22	Jerald Hyatt		0-0	2-2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	9
31	Kevin Woods		0-1	0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
33	Dan Federmann		2-3	0-1	3	4	4	0	1	0	0	20
	TEAM				4							
	Totals		20-39	11-17	24	23	51	14	6	0	4	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 14-25 56.0% 2nd Half: 6-14 42.9% Game: 51.3%
F Throw% 1st Half: 4-6 66.7% 2nd Half: 7-11 63.6% Game: 64.7%

HOME TEAM: Virginia 30-3

			FG	FT	REBS	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
04	Jim Miller	f	1-2	0-3	2	3	2	0	0	0	0	17
10	Craig Robinson	f	2-7	0-0	6	3	4	1	2	0	0	29
50	Ralph Sampson	c	9-14	1-6	9	2	19	2	0	2	0	36
24	Jeff Jones	g	4-6	2-5	7	2	10	3	1	1	1	38
45	Tim Mullen	g	4-6	1-2	0	2	9	0	2	0	0	24
11	Othell Wilson		2-3	1-2	1	1	5	1	1	0	0	22
15	Ricky Stokes		0-1	2-2	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	18
30	Kenton Edelin		1-2	1-1	2	4	3	0	0	0	1	16
	TEAM				4							
	Totals		23-41	8-21	32	19	54	7	7	3	2	200

TOTAL FG% 1st Half: 11-23 47.9% 2nd Half: 12-18 66.7% Game: 56.1%
F Throw% 1st Half: 3-10 30.0% 2nd Half: 5-11 45.5% Game: 38.1%

Officials: Jack Savidge, Charles Range, Arthur Mellace
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: Not available

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	32	19	51
Virginia	25	29	54

1983 NCAA Mideast Region — First Round

#9 **Marquette** (19-11) **56**

#8 **Tennessee** (20-11) **57**

March 18, 1982 • Roberts Municipal Stadium • Evansville, Indiana

Michael Brooks hit two free throws with five seconds left in the game to secure a 57-56 victory over Marquette.

Brooks only had 11 points in the game, but four came via the charity stripe in the game's final 61 seconds. Brooks' two free throws with 1:01 remaining gave the Vols a 55-53 lead. Dale Ellis and Jerald Hyatt had just missed opportunities at the foul line before Brooks gave the Vols their two-point lead.

Kevin Woods then came up with a steal on Marquette's ensuring possession and was fouled. He came up empty on the front end of a one-and-one. Doc Rivers countered by making one of his two free attempts on the next possession to cut the lead to 55-54 with 20 seconds left.

Brooks then brought the ball up court and was tied up in front of the Tennessee bench. It looked as though Brooks was going to be called for a five-second violation, but instead was fouled by Rivers. He then sank the two free throws. Marquette's Kerry Trotter hit a lay-up at the buzzer to provide the final score.

"I wanted the ball," Brooks said. "I knew they would have to foul me because time was running out. I felt I could ice the game."

Brooks' free throws were his most obvious contribution to the Vol victory, but he also turned in a stellar performance on the defense end. He held Rivers to 10 points and ran the Volunteer offense for 40 minutes. Rivers only hit 4-of-13 shots as Brooks guarded him most of the game.

"Michael sank those two free throws, but defense won this game," Tennessee guard Tyrone Beaman said. "He played probably his best defensive game. He came through for us in the clutch."

Tennessee trailed 43-38 with 11:38 remaining in the game, but a three-point play by Willie Burton, a bucket from Dale Ellis and two more free throws by Burton gave the Vols a 45-43 lead with 9:15 left. Tennessee then hit 10-of-15 free throw attempts the rest of way including the two from Brooks. The only field goal the Vols scored in the last 10 minutes was a long jumper from Brooks.

NOTES: The victory over Marquette was the 100th for Don DeVoe at Tennessee ... Tennessee was only one of six teams to appear in the past five NCAA Tournaments with the other teams being Arkansas, Georgetown, Iowa, Louisville and North Carolina.

VISITORS: Marquette 19-11

			FG	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Dwayne Johnson	f	3-5	3-4	1-3-4	4	9	3	2	0	1	38
52	Marc Marotta	f	7-12	1-1	5-5-10	5	15	1	2	1	2	39
33	Terrell Schlundt	c	6-11	0-1	1-5-6	4	12	0	2	0	0	40
20	Mandy Johnson	g	3-5	2-2	0-0-0	4	8	2	0	0	3	38
31	Glenn Rivers	g	4-13	2-7	4-1-5	5	10	3	4	0	1	39
21	Terry Reason		0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
32	Kerry Trotter		1-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
	TEAM				5							
	Totals		24-47	8-15	11-14-30	22	56	9	10	1	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 13-27 48.7%	2nd Half: 11-20 55.0%	Game: 51.1%
F Throw%	1st Half: 2-3 66.7%	2nd Half: 6-12 50.0%	Game: 53.3%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 20-11

			FG	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
14	Dale Ellis	f	7-9	6-10	0-4-4	3	20	0	2	0	1	40
40	Willie Burton	f	3-7	4-5	3-2-5	5	10	2	4	0	1	32
33	Dan Federmann	c	3-5	0-1	2-0-2	2	6	0	0	0	0	16
10	Tyrone Beaman	g	3-5	0-0	0-0-0	5	6	5	1	0	0	32
21	Michael Brooks	g	3-6	5-5	1-3-4	1	11	0	2	0	0	40
22	Jerald Hyatt		0-1	0-1	0-0-0	0	0	1	0	0	1	11
30	Tyrone Harper		2-3	0-0	1-0-1	0	4	1	0	0	0	17
31	Kevin Woods		0-1	0-2	0-2-2	1	0	0	0	1	0	11
34	Rob Jones		0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	TEAM				6							
	Total		21-37	15-27	7-11-25	17	57	9	9	1	3	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 14-23 60.9%	2nd Half: 7-14 50.0%	Game: 56.8%
F Throw%	1st Half: 0-2 0.0%	2nd Half: 15-26 57.7%	Game: 55.6%

Officials: John Dabrow, Bob Garibaldi, Peter Pevia
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: Not available

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Marquette	28	28	56
Tennessee	28	29	57

1983 NCAA Mideast Region — Second Round

#8 **Tennessee** (20-12) **57**

#1 **Louisville** (30-3) **70**

March 20, 1982 • Roberts Municipal Stadium • Evansville, Indiana

Louisville used an 11-2 run midway through the second half to halt a Tennessee rally and post a 70-57 victory over the Vols.

The Cardinals used their pressure defense in the first half to force 10 Tennessee turnovers which enabled them to open up a 34-27 halftime lead. A 15-foot jumper from Lancaster Gordon and a layup from Charles Jones pushed the lead out to 42-30 with 15:26 left in the game.

The Vols then mounted a rally. Two buckets apiece from Dale Ellis and Willie Burton keyed a 13-3 scoring run for the Vols as they pulled to within 45-43 with 10:26 on the clock.

Louisville then called timeout to regroup. The Cardinals responded with an 11-2 rally to open the lead back out to 56-45 with just under six minutes left in the game. Tennessee could get no closer than eight points the rest of the game.

"We had worked so hard to get that close," Tennessee point guard Tyrone Beaman said. "They get a couple of quick, easy baskets and it took a little bit out of everybody."

Ellis was held to 13 points, nine below his season average, on 6-of-13 shooting. Louisville's man-to-man defense made him work hard to get the ball, and the Cardinals' fast break offense continually put pressure on the Vols to get back on defense.

"This is as tired as I've ever been on the court all year," Ellis said. "This is one of the worst shooting games ever. I missed a lot of easy shots."

Michael Brooks led the Vols with 18 points, and Beaman added 10. Louisville was led by Milt Wagner's 15 points and Scooter McRay's 10.

NOTES: The Mideast Regional Semifinals were held at Stokely Athletic Center ... Louisville advanced to the Final Four before losing 94-81 to Houston ... Ellis finished his career as the third all-time leading scorer at Tennessee behind Ernie Grunfeld and Reggie Johnson.

VISITORS: Tennessee 20-12

			FG	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
14	Dale Ellis	f	6-13	1-3	1-4-5	4	13	0	5	0	2	35
40	Willie Burton	f	4-10	1-2	4-3-7	0	9	2	1	2	2	36
33	Dan Federmann	c	1-1	1-2	0-3-3	4	3	1	1	0	2	14
10	Tyrone Beaman	g	4-7	2-2	1-0-1	5	10	3	6	0	2	33
21	Michael Brooks	g	8-17	2-2	0-1-1	2	18	5	4	0	2	40
22	Jerald Hyatt		0-1	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	0	0	2	16
23	Myron Carter		0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
30	Tyrone Harper		1-4	0-0	2-0-2	1	2	0	0	0	0	8
31	Kevin Woods		1-3	0-0	1-2-3	0	2	0	0	0	0	10
34	Rob Jones		0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
	TEAM				3							
	Totals		25-56	7-11	25	17	57	12	17	2	12	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-28 42.3%	2nd Half: 13-28 46.4%	Game: 44.7%
F Throw%	1st Half: 3-4 75.0%	2nd Half: 4-7 57.1%	Game: 63.6%

HOME TEAM: Louisville 30-3

			FG	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
21	Scooter McCray	f	5-7	0-0	1-4-5	4	10	3	3	2	2	32
22	Rodney McCray	f	0-1	1-2	1-5-6	0	1	2	1	0	2	33
33	Charles Jones	c	7-8	4-7	5-6-11	0	18	3	5	2	2	35
4	Lancaster Gordon	g	7-15	4-4	1-0-1	1	18	2	6	0	2	36
20	Milt Wagner	g	6-10	3-4	1-0-1	2	15	2	3	1	2	31
00	Robbie Valentine		0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
23	Chris West		0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
42	Jeff Hall		0-2	2-2	0-0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	12
45	Danny Mitchell		0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
55	Billy Thompson		2-4	2-4	0-3-3	1	6	1	0	1	1	18
	TEAM				4							
	Totals		27-47	16-23	9-18-31	8	70	13	18	6	11	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 14-28 50.0%	2nd Half: 13-19 68.4%	Game: 57.4%
F Throw%	1st Half: 6-8 75.0%	2nd Half: 10-15 66.7%	Game: 69.6%

Officials: John Dabrow, Bob Garibaldi, Phil Robinson
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: 11,900

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	27	30	57
Louisville	34	36	70

1989 NCAA East Region — First Round

#10 **Tennessee** (19-11) **68**

#7 **West Virginia** (26-4) **84**

March 16, 1989 • Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, North Carolina

Tennessee fell behind by 10 points less than five minutes into the game and never recovered as West Virginia cruised to an 84-68 victory.

It was the Vols' first NCAA Tournament appearance in six years, but the Mountaineers made the visit a short one. They scored on their first nine possessions and their defense frustrated the Vols throughout the game.

"West Virginia got the upper hand about as quickly as you can in an NCAA Tournament game," Tennessee coach Don DeVoe said. "It was obviously a game where we didn't do many things right. West Virginia did a lot of things right, and the scoreboard bore that out."

Tennessee shot 29 percent from the floor in the first half and fell behind as many as 15 points. The Vols battled back to go into the break trailing 35-23, but the opening minutes of the second half once again put the Vols in a deep hole.

The Mountaineers scored the first six points of the second half which keyed a 12-4 run that opened the lead to 47-27 with 16:51 left in the game. Tennessee got back to within 57-45 on a 3-pointer from Doug Roth, but West Virginia answered with two buckets. Tennessee never got closer than 12 points the rest of the game.

West Virginia shot a blistering 77 percent from the field in the second half on 17-of-22 shooting and finished the game at 62 percent. Tennessee finished the game shooting 38 percent from the field.

"It looked like to me the guys were playing a little tight at both ends of the floor," DeVoe said. "I know it's the NCAA, but that's when you should bring your game up to another level."

Dyron Nix led the Vols with 22 points, and West Virginia native Greg Bell added 14. Starting guard Clarence Swearengen, who was averaging 12 points a game, played only 14 minutes and did not score.

NOTES: Tennessee had won five consecutive first round NCAA Tournament games before losing to West Virginia ... West Virginia lost to Duke 70-63 in the second round.

VISITORS: Tennessee 19-11

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
31	Dyron Nix	f	10-20	0-4	2-4	5-3-8	3	22	1	1	0	0	37
33	Mark Griffin	f	1-5	1-4	0-0	2-1-3	4	3	1	2	0	1	26
50	Doug Roth	c	5-13	3-6	0-4	4-6-10	4	13	1	4	1	0	38
11	C. Swearengen	g	0-4	0-1	0-0	1-2-3	0	0	0	2	0	0	14
25	Travis Henry	g	1-2	1-1	0-0	0-1-1	3	3	0	1	0	0	14
10	Jay Price		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
15	Ron Taylor		2-9	2-9	1-2	0-0-0	2	7	4	0	0	2	17
23	Greg Bell		5-10	3-6	1-2	0-1-1	4	14	5	1	0	1	34
34	Ronnie Reese		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
51	Ian Lockhart		2-5	0-0	2-2	2-0-2	5	6	0	1	0	0	17
	TEAM					2							
	Total		26-69	10-31	6-14	15-13-30	26	68	13	12	1	4	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 9-31 29.0%	2nd Half: 17-38 44.7%	Game: 37.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-7 14.3%	2nd Half: 9-24 37.5%	Game: 32.3%
F Throw%	1st Half: 4-8 50.0%	2nd Half: 2-6 33.3%	Game: 42.9%

HOME TEAM: West Virginia 26-4

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
24	Darryl Prue	f	5-8	0-0	2-2	3-3-6	4	12	2	1	0	0	29
23	Chris Brooks	f	2-7	0-0	0-1	0-1-1	4	4	0	0	0	0	20
42	Ray Foster	c	6-7	0-0	7-8	2-9-11	3	19	0	2	2	1	35
32	Herbie Brooks	g	8-12	0-0	6-6	2-0-2	1	22	2	4	0	2	34
04	Steve Berger	g	4-6	1-3	5-7	1-4-5	0	14	7	4	0	3	35
03	Tracy Shelton		3-4	0-0	4-5	0-1-1	0	10	2	1	0	1	12
11	Chris Leonard		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
21	Shaun Jackson		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	0	1	1	0	0	6
25	Mike Yoest		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4
33	Wade Smith		1-3	0-0	1-2	0-4-4	1	3	0	2	1	0	22
34	Thomas Kroger		0-0	0-0	0-1	0-2-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	TEAM					2							
	Totals		29-47	1-3	25-33	8-26-36	14	84	14	15	3	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-25 48.0%	2nd Half: 17-22 77.3%	Game: 61.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-3 33.3%	2nd Half: 0-0 0.0%	Game: 33.3%
F Throw%	1st Half: 10-13 76.9%	2nd Half: 15-20 75.0%	Game: 75.8%

Officials: Tom Rucker, Stan Rote, Duke Edsall
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: Not available

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Tennessee	23	45	68
West Virginia	35	49	84

1998 NCAA West Region — First Round

#9	**Illinois State** (25-5)	ot	**82**
#8	**Tennessee** (20-9)		**81**

March 12, 1998 • Arco Arena • Sacramento, California

Illinois State's Dan Muller scored the winning basket off a pass from Kyle Cartmill with 1.3 seconds left to lift the Redbirds to an 82-81 overtime victory over Tennessee.

The Vols had taken an 81-80 lead on C.J. Black's layup off a pass from Tony Harris with 15.4 seconds left before the game-winning bucket by Muller.

The Vols struggled in the second half with foul trouble and poor shooting. They finished the game shooting 36.7 percent from the field and had nearly a five minute stretch in the second half without scoring. A free throw by Harris at the 7:13 mark finally broke the scoring drought, but the Vols found themselves down 66-58.

The Vols battled back to tie the score at 70 on Black's rebound and basket with 2:53 left. Tennessee took a 72-70 lead on Black's slam dunk off a pass from Brandon Wharton, but Illinois State tied the score on Steve Hansell's layup with 53 seconds left.

That gave the Vols the ball back with a chance to win. They worked the shot clock down to 17 seconds and the game clock down to 34.6 before calling a timeout.

Wharton took a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 22 seconds left, but missed and Illinois State rebounded.

The Redbirds had their own chance at a game-winning shot, but Hill missed a 14-foot jumper. The Vols rebounded and threw a desperation pass, but it was on to overtime.

Tennessee had opened up a nine-point lead in the first half but could not put the Redbirds away. Back-to-back 3-pointers from Rico Hill and Steve Hansell at the end of the half enabled the Redbirds to pull within 41-38 at the break.

NOTES: Illinois State's starting backcourt during the season did not play due to injury. Skipp Schaefbauer broke his leg in the MVC tournament. Jamar Smiley didn't start because of back problems. Smiley got into the game, but immediately came out writhing in pain and was taken for treatment ... This was Tennessee's first appearance in the NCAA Tournament in nine years ... The Redbirds lost 82-49 to Arizona in the second round.

VISITORS: Illinois State 25-5

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
42	Rico Hill	f	6-23	3-6	7-11	1-2-3	3	22	4	2	0	1	42
44	Dan Muller	f	3-7	2-4	0-0	2-8-10	1	8	3	4	1	1	45
32	LeRoy Watkins	c	6-14	0-0	6-6	2-1-3	2	18	0	2	2	1	25
11	Steve Hansell	g	5-5	1-1	5-5	1-8-9	4	16	6	2	0	1	41
24	Kyle Cartmill	g	3-5	1-1	2-2	1-2-3	4	9	6	6	0	2	40
15	Jamar Smiley		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
23	Kenneth Pierson		0-2	0-0	0-0	0-3-3	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
35	Rob Gibbons		2-4	0-1	5-8	2-4-6	4	9	0	1	0	0	24
	TEAM					1-3-4							
	Totals		25-60	7-13	25-32	10-31-41	19	82	19	17	3	6	225

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 12-26 46.2%	2nd Half: 9-28 32.1%	Game: 41.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-7 71.4%	2nd Half: 2-6 33.3%	Game: 53.8%
F Throw%	1st Half: 9-12 75.0%	2nd Half: 14-17 82.4%	Game: 78.1%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 20-9

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
03	Rashard Lee	f	4-18	1-8	0-0	5-6-11	1	9	2	9	9	1	27
43	C.J. Black	f	8-12	0-1	2-2	4-2-6	4	18	0	4	1	2	34
40	Torrey Harris	c	3-5	0-0	0-0	2-1-3	5	6	0	0	3	0	19
14	Tony Harris	g	1-13	0-6	8-11	0-5-5	2	10	9	2	0	2	44
15	Brandon Wharton	g	8-21	4-9	3-3	1-3-4	3	23	3	4	0	1	44
05	Aaron Green		3-5	1-2	0-0	1-1-2	4	7	0	1	0	0	10
32	Del Baker		0-1	0-1	2-2	0-0-0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
33	Scott Moore		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
34	Vegas Davis		0-2	0-2	0-0	0-2-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
44	Isiah Victor		2-2	0-0	2-3	2-3-5	3	6	1	2	2	4	28
	TEAM					5-3-8							
	Totals		29-79	6-29	17-21	20-26-46	22	81	15	3	6	10	225

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 13-37 35.1%	2nd Half: 13-24 35.3%	Game: 36.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 2-9 22.2%	2nd Half: 3-16 18.8%	Game: 20.7%
F Throw%	1st Half: 13-14 92.9%	2nd Half: 4-7 57.1%	Game: 81.0%

Officials: Larry Lembo, Jim Haney, Eddie Jackson
Technical fouls: none
Attendance: 15,284

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	OT	Total
Illinois State	38	34	10	82
Tennessee	41	31	9	81

1999 NCAA East Region — First Round

#13	**Delaware** (24-6)		**52**
#4	**Tennessee** (21-8)		**62**

March 12, 1999 • Charlotte Coliseum • Charlotte, North Carolina

Tennessee's offense was sputtering, but the Vols turned up their defensive pressure to post a 62-52 victory over Delaware. It was the Vols' first NCAA Tournament win in 16 years.

The Vols shot only 33 percent from the field, but held Delaware to 30 percent shooting. Forward Mike Pegues did score 23 points for Delaware, but it came on 7-of-23 shooting. Tennessee's perimeter defense held the Blue Hens starting perimeter players to 2-of-13 from 3-point range.

"As long as we play defense like we did today, we have a chance to win, no matter how bad we shoot the ball," Tennessee guard Brandon Wharton said.

Wharton scored all 16 of his points in the second half after missing seven shots in the first half, including an uncontested layup after a steal.

"I just kept telling the players 'Continue to play good defense, and the shots are going to fall. Believe me. Trust me. They're going to fall,'" Tennessee coach Jerry Green said.

Two free throws from Pegues gave Delaware a 20-14 lead with 3:45 left in the first half. Tennessee then reeled off 11 unanswered points to open a 25-20 lead with 35 seconds left in the half. Pegues hit a jumper at the first half buzzer to pull the Blue Hens to within three at the break and then opened the second half with a 3-pointer to tie the game at 25.

Tennessee then got the offense rolling with a layup from Wharton, a 3-pointer from Tony Harris and a C.J. Black dunk. The Vols led 32-25 and never trailed again.

"We were almost too ready to play," Green said. "Survive and advanced. That's what it's all about."

NOTES: Tennessee's win snapped Delaware's 13-game winning streak ... Delaware's point total and field goal percentage were its lowest of the season ... Delaware won the America East Conference tournament to earn its bid into the NCAA Tournament.

VISITORS: Delaware 24-6

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
05	Mike Pegues	f	7-23	0-1	9-14	3-7-10	2	23	2	6	0	2	33
13	Kestutis Marci	f	2-8	0-5	2-2	1-2-3	2	6	1	2	0	1	26
10	John Bennett	c	2-6	0-0	1-2	7-7-14	4	5	0	3	2	0	33
15	John Gordon	g	3-9	1-5	0-0	1-4-5	5	7	4	1	0	1	39
03	Tyrone Perry	g	3-6	1-3	0-2	0-1-1	2	7	0	1	0	2	26
23	Madou Diouf		1-3	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	2	0	0	0	0	24
24	Greg Miller		0-2	0-1	2-2	0-0-0	1	2	0	1	0	0	19
	TEAM					4-6-10				3			
	Totals		18-57	2-15	14-22	16-27-43	17	52	7	17	2	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 5-2 22.7%	2nd Half: 12-35 34.3%	Game: 29.8%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 0-4 0.0%	2nd Half: 1-11 9.1%	Game: 6.7%
F Throw%	1st Half: 8-11 72.7%	2nd Half: 5-8 62.5%	Game: 68.4%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 21-8

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Vincent Yarbrough	f	1-4	0-1	4-4	2-2-4	2	6	1	2	1	0	21
43	C.J. Black	f	2-7	0-1	5-6	4-3-7	2	9	2	2	0	1	26
40	Torrey Harris	c	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-2-3	3	0	0	1	0	0	14
14	Tony Harris	g	3-8	2-5	2-2	0-1-1	0	10	1	6	0	3	37
15	Brandon Wharton	g	5-18	1-5	5-6	2-5-7	4	16	4	2	0	1	39
44	Isiah Victor		7-15	0-1	0-1	5-9-14	4	14	0	2	2	0	25
03	Rashard Lee		1-4	0-2	2-4	0-4-4	2	4	0	2	0	2	21
55	Charles Hathaway		1-2	0-0	1-2	0-2-2	3	3	0	2	1	0	16
34	Vegas Davis		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
32	Del Baker		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	TEAM					1-4-5							
	Totals		20-61	3-17	19-25	15-32-47	21	62	8	19	5	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 9-33 27.3%	2nd Half: 11-28 39.3%	Game: 32.8%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-11 9.1%	2nd Half: 2-6 33.3%	Game: 17.6%
F Throw%	1st Half: 6-11 54.5%	2nd Half: 13-14 92.9%	Game: 76.0%

Officials: Dave Libbey, Jerry Petro, Paul Janssen
Technical fouls: None
Attendance:

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Delaware	22	30	52
Tennessee	25	37	62

1999 NCAA East Region — Second Round

#9	**SW Missouri State** (22-10)		**81**
#4	**Tennessee** (21-9)		**51**

March 14, 1999 • Charlotte Coliseum • Charlotte, North Carolina

Poor shooting proved costly for the Vols as Southwestern Missouri State gave Tennessee its worst loss ever in NCAA Tournament action with a 81-51 victory.

Tennessee shot 29.5 percent from field and hit only 6-of-29 3 point attempts for 20.7 percent.

"Their defense didn't give us many open looks," forward Isiah Victor said. "And when they did, we weren't making those shots either, so it really didn't matter."

Southwest Missouri State, on the other hand, shot 51.9 percent from the field and hit 9-of-22 3-pointers. It was a 3-pointer at the end of the first half that seemed to douse all hopes of a Vol victory. Ken Stringer banked in a 25-footer at the buzzer to give the Bears a 36-26 halftime lead.

Southwest Missouri then opened the second half by scoring on nine of its first 10 possessions. The lead expanded out to 58-33 with 12:38 to play.

"I'd say they played a perfect ball game," Tennessee coach Jerry Green said. "The more shots they hit, the more confident they got and the less we got. It seemed all the basketball gods were on their side and not on ours."

Tennessee never led in the game as the Bears jumped out to a 9-2 lead 3:10 into the game. The Bears got two easy buckets off of Tennessee turnovers caused by a full-court press. It was all uphill from there.

NOTES: Southwest Missouri State lost to Duke in the Regional Semifinals ... Southwest Missouri State won the Missouri Valley Conference to earn its trip to the NCAA Tournament ... A Missouri Valley Conference team (Illinois State) eliminated the Vols from the 1998 NCAA Tournament.

VISITORS: SW Missouri State 22-10

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
05	Ken Stringer	f	4-7	2-2	0-1	0-5-5	0	10	2	0	1	0	28
23	Ron Bruton	f	5-5	0-0	2-2	1-4-5	3	12	1	1	1	4	29
32	Danny Moore	c	8-14	2-2	7-9	2-6-8	1	25	1	1	1	0	34
12	William Fontlero	g	1-5	0-2	4-7	0-2-2	3	6	4	1	1	1	30
24	Kevin Ault	g	5-11	2-8	2-2	1-5-6	2	14	5	3	0	1	31
03	Paul Murans		1-2	1-1	0-0	0-1-1	0	3	0	0	0	0	2
04	Brandon Miller		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
10	Ryan Bettenhaus		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
20	Scott Brakebill		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-4-4	2	0	0	0	0	0	9
21	Eric Judd		1-3	0-2	1-1	1-0-1	0	3	1	0	0	0	2
25	Butch Tshomba		0-1	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
33	Allen Phillips		3-5	2-4	0-2	0-2-2	1	8	3	0	0	0	15
50	Matt Reuter		0-1	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	1	0	0	0	0	1	6
	TEAM					1-1-2							
	Totals		28-54	9-22	6-24	7-30-37	13	81	17	6	4	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 13-25 52.0%	2nd Half: 15-29 51.7%	Game: 51.9%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-12 41.7%	2nd Half: 4-10 40.0%	Game: 40.9%
F Throw%	1st Half: 5-9 55.6%	2nd Half: 11-15 73.3%	Game: 66.7%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 21-9

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Vincent Yarbrough	f	1-7	0-4	4-4	2-4-6	3	6	0	1	0	0	23
40	Torrey Harris	f	0-0	0-0	0-0	1-0-1	2	0	0	0	0	1	8
43	C.J. Black	c	1-6	0-1	2-4	2-1-3	2	4	0	1	1	0	22
14	Tony Harris	g	2-11	2-10	0-0	0-1-1	3	6	4	5	0	0	33
15	Brandon Wharton	g	5-16	1-6	0-0	0-3-3	3	11	2	1	0	0	32
03	Rashard Lee		2-4	1-2	2-2	1-2-3	2	7	0	2	0	0	20
05	Aaron Green		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
32	Del Baker		0-3	0-1	0-0	2-1-3	0	3	0	0	1	0	13
34	Vegas Davis		1-3	1-3	0-0	1-1-2	0	3	0	0	1	0	21
44	Isiah Victor		5-8	1-2	0-0	4-4-8	4	11	1	2	0	0	21
55	Charles Hathaway		1-3	0-0	1-2	0-4-4	2	3	0	1	0	1	17
	TEAM					2-3-5							
	Totals		18-61	6-29	9-12	15-24-39	21	8	13	2	2	2	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 10-30 33.3%	2nd Half: 8-31- 5.8%	Game: 29.5%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-13 23.1%	2nd Half: 3-16 18.8%	Game: 20.7%
F Throw%	1st Half: 3-6 50.0%	2nd Half: 6-6 100.0%	Game: 75.0%

Officials: Dave Libbey, Gene Monje, Bob Sitov
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: 20,172

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
SW Missouri State	36	45	81
Tennessee	26	25	51

2000 NCAA South Region — First Round

#13 **Louisiana-Lafayette** (25-9) **58**

#4 **Tennessee** (25-6) **63**

March 17, 2000 • Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center • Birmingham, Alabama

Tony Harris made two free throws with 10.8 seconds to play to help Tennessee seal a 63-58 victory over Louisiana-Lafayette.

Louisiana-Lafayette cut UT's lead to two at 60-58 on Brett Smith's jumper with 45 seconds to play. With the shot clock running down, Harris made a move to the basket and appeared to turn the ball over to Smith. But Smith was called for a reach-in foul that sent Harris to the line with 15 seconds to play. He missed the front end of the one-and-one, Ron Slay got the rebound and was flagrantly fouled by Smith with 13 seconds to go allowing Tennessee to keep the ball after the free throws.

Slay then missed both free throws and Tennessee in-bounded the ball to Harris, who was quickly fouled. Harris hit both shots to seal the victory.

Tennessee trailed most of the game. The Vols were down 48-42 with just under 10 minutes left to play. Slay, a freshman from Nashville, then got the Vols offense rolling. Slay scored 11 of his 15 points in the final 8:15, including a coast-to-coast drive that he converted into a three-point play. Slay's drive cut what had been a six-point UL-Lafayette lead to 48-45 with 8:15 remaining.

"When Ron took it all the way, I felt we had 'Mo' (momentum) back on our side and had it going the right direction," UT coach Jerry Green said,

Slay's 8-footer inside the Cajuns' variation of a 2-3 zone defense broke a 54-54 tie at the 4:07 mark. He hit a similar shot to make it 60-56, Vols, with 1:48 to play.

"We struggled offensively, but our defense kept us in the game," Green said. "We did just exactly what we had to do down the stretch to win the game."

Harris and Slay led Tennessee with 15 points each. C.J. Black added 14, including 10-of-10 from the foul line, and Vincent Yarbrough scored 11. Lonnie Thomas led Louisiana-Lafayette with 19 points.

NOTES: Louisiana-Lafayette earned its bid to the NCAA Tournament by winning the Sun Belt Conference.

VISITORS: La.-Lafayette 25-9

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
30	Lonnie Thomas	f	9-16	0-0	1-1	3-2-5	5	19	1	4	1	1	25
52	Reggie DeGray	f	2-3	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	5	4	1	2	0	0	11
42	Brett Smith	c	2-4	0-0	2-3	7-3-10	3	6	0	1	0	1	33
13	Billy Jones	g	1-8	1-3	0-0	1-6-7	2	3	1	3	0	1	28
22	Blane Harmon	g	1-5	1-5	0-0	0-0-0	4	3	2	0	0	0	19
23	Orlando Butler		5-13	2-9	0-0	2-4-6	1	12	3	0	0	1	33
01	Jarret Evans		1-2	1-2	0-0	0-0-0	0	3	0	0	0	0	5
05	Kenneth Lawrence		0-6	0-2	0-0	1-4-5	1	0	6	3	0	0	27
32	Darryl Robins		0-1	0-0	0-0	0-2-2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
33	Shea Whiting		1-3	0-0	2-4	1-2-3	2	4	0	1	0	0	7
41	Derrick Warren		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
45	Kendall Regis		2-2	0-0	0-0	2-0-2	2	4	1	1	0	0	9
	TEAM					1-0-1							
	Totals		24-63	5-22	5-8	18-23-41	25	58	15	15	1	4	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 11-31 35.5%	2nd Half: 13-33 39.4%	Game: 38.1%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-13 30.8%	2nd Half: 1-10 10.0%	Game: 22.7%
F Throw%	1st Half: 3-6 50.0%	2nd Half: 2-2 100.0%	Game: 62.5%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 25-6

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Vincent Yarbrough	f	3-8	3-7	2-3	1-6-7	2	11	1	2	1	1	38
44	Isiah Victor	f	1-3	0-2	2-2	0-6-6	3	4	0	1	2	1	19
43	C.J. Black	c	2-4	0-1	10-10	1-1-2	2	14	0	2	2	0	34
14	Tony Harris	g	4-14	2-8	5-7	1-2-3	2	15	3	2	0	2	37
42	Jon Higgins	g	1-6	1-5	1-2	2-0-2	1	4	3	0	0	1	33
05	Harris Walker		0-3	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	7
12	Marcus Haislip		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
31	Terrence Woods		0-5	0-5	0-0	1-1-2	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
35	Ron Slay		6-8	0-0	3-5	2-2-4	2	15	0	1	1	0	18
55	Charles Hathaway		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	1	0	0	6
	TEAM					4-1-5							
	Totals		17-51	6-30	23-29	12-19-31	14	63	7	12	6	5	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 6-23 26.1%	2nd Half: 11-30 36.7%	Game: 33.3%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-13 23.1%	2nd Half: 3-17 17.6%	Game: 20.0%
F Throw%	1st Half: 11-13 84.6%	2nd Half: 12-16 75.0%	Game: 79.3%

Officials: David Libbey, Mark Reishcling, Tom Gabutero
Technical fouls: UL-DeGray, Harmon, Whiting. UT-Harris, Hathaway
Attendance: 11,061

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Louisiana-Lafayette	29	29	58
Tennessee	26	37	63

2000 NCAA South Region — Second Round

#5 **Connecticut** (25-10) **51**

#4 **Tennessee** (26-6) **65**

March 19, 2000 • Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center • Birmingham, Alabama

Tennessee capitalized on an ankle injury that reduced Connecticut point guard Khalid El-Amin to one basket in 13 minutes and posted a 65-51 victory. The Vols made school history by winning two games in the NCAA Tournament.

The Vols trailed only once, at 4-2, and had the upper hand, 32-22 by halftime. The Huskies cut a 12-point deficit to 38-34 when El-Amin hit his only basket, a 3-pointer, with 13:36 to play.

Vol freshman Jon Higgins answered with his own 3-pointer 14 seconds later, igniting a 16-4 run that put the game away.

Connecticut went 6:15 without scoring during the major portion of that stretch, missing six consecutive shots and turning the ball over twice.

One was a Higgins steal and break-away that ended up being juggled and dished to Vincent Yarbrough for a dunk and subsequent free throw. The three-point play restored the margin to 44-34.

Tony Harris led the Vols with 18 points, including 9-of-12 from the foul stripe. Yarbrough got 11 of his 14 in the first half, helping shoot the Huskies out of a zone defense with three 3-pointers. C.J. Black added 13 points, 10 in the second half, as UT penetrated UConn's defense for dunks and free throws.

The Vol defense also stood tall by converting seven steals into 14 points and holding the Huskies to 38.6 percent shooting. UT shot 44.7 percent from field which was up from 33.3 percent in the first round victory.

"We played awfully good," Tennessee coach Jerry Green said. "That could have been as good as we played all year. Time and again, making the extra pass - or passes - produced good looks against the UConn defense."

Albert Mouring scored 17 points to lead the Huskies, and El-Amin was limited to three points, 13 below his season average.

NOTES: The 51 points was a season-low for the Huskies ... Connecticut was the defending NCAA champion having won the 1999 NCAA Tournament with a 77-74 victory over Duke.

VISITORS: Connecticut 25-10

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
33	Kevin Freeman	f	6-9	0-0	2-2	2-5-7	3	14	0	4	0	0	29
04	Ajou Deng	f	0-3	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
43	Jake Voskuhl	c	1-2	0-0	0-0	3-6-9	4	2	1	1	0	0	18
23	Albert Mouring	g	7-18	3-8	0-0	0-3-3	2	17	0	1	0	0	39
42	Khalid El-Amin	g	1-2	1-2	0-0	0-2-2	0	3	1	0	0	0	13
20	Justin Brown		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
32	Tony Robertson		1-7	0-1	0-0	0-1-1	4	2	2	3	0	0	33
34	Souleymane Wane		4-8	0-0	0-0	4-3-7	2	8	0	1	0	0	22
05	Beau Archibald		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
50	Marcus Cox		0-3	0-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
51	Edmund Saunders		2-3	0-0	1-2	2-1-3	1	5	0	2	1	0	18
55	Doug Wrenn		0-2	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	2	0	0	3	0	1	9
	TEAM					3-1-4							
	Totals		22-57	4-12	3-4	14-23-37	20	51	4	15	1	1	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 10-28 35.7%	2nd Half: 12-29 41.4%	Game: 38.6%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 1-6 16.7%	2nd Half: 3-6 50.0%	Game: 33.3%
F Throw%	1st Half: 1-2 50.0%	2nd Half: 2-2 100%	Game: 75.0%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 26-6

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Vincent Yarbrough	f	5-9	3-6	1-1	0-3-3	3	14	4	0	1	0	34
44	Isiah Victor	f	0-2	0-0	1-2	2-2-4	0	1	1	1	0	0	15
43	C.J. Black	c	5-9	0-1	3-5	2-3-5	1	13	0	1	0	0	30
14	Tony Harris	g	4-11	1-4	9-12	0-1-1	3	18	2	2	0	2	35
42	Jon Higgins	g	3-9	3-6	0-0	0-4-4	0	9	4	0	0	2	37
31	Terrence Woods		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
35	Ron Slay		3-6	0-0	2-3	1-3-4	1	8	1	0	2	2	29
05	Harris Walker		1-1	0-0	0-0	0-1-1	0	2	3	1	0	1	10
55	Charles Hathaway		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	1	0	0	2	0	0	8
	TEAM					1-3-4				1			
	Totals		21-47	7-17	16-23	6-20-26	9	65	15	8	3	7	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 11-24 45.8%	2nd Half: 10-23 43.5%	Game: 44.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 6-13 46.2%	2nd Half: 1-4 25.0%	Game: 41.2%
F Throw%	1st Half: 4-8 50.0%	2nd Half: 12-15 80.0%	Game: 69.6%

Officials: David Libbey, Mark Reischling, Art McDonald.
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: 16,108

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Connecticut	22	29	51
Tennessee	32	33	65

2000 NCAA South Region — Regional Semifinal

#8 **North Carolina** (21-13) **74**

#4 **Tennessee** (26-7) **69**

March 24, 2000 • Frank Erwin Center • Austin, Texas

Ed Cota spurred a late second-half comeback, then he and freshmen Joseph Forte and Julius Peppers hit six straight free throws in the final 34.9 seconds, giving North Carolina a 74-69 victory over Tennessee in the South Regional semifinals.

The Tar Heels' winning rally kicked into top gear when Forte drilled a 3-pointer and Jason Capel hit a layup to get the Tar Heels within 64-63. Cota made a running jumper in the lane and then hit another floater to make it 66-64 with 2:00 left. Tennessee's scoring drought, which left the Vols without a field goal since 7:15, ended with 13.6 seconds left when Tony Harris made his first basket of the night, a 3-pointer.

"I thought for about 35 minutes, we played awfully well," Tennessee coach Jerry Green said. "Then we started trying to make hard plays, and it wasn't just one person, it was about four or five different people. And while we were making hard plays, they were making baskets."

Tennessee got off to a slow start as North Carolina led by seven early. Then, the Vols' speed and athleticism carried them to a 22-7 run and a nine-point lead. Capel kept the Tar Heels close by scoring the last five points of the first half, pulling North Carolina to within 39-36.

"I can't really put it into words," Vincent Yarbrough said of the loss. "I thought we had the game won, but they just outplayed us in the last four minutes. We came out of the last timeout and still thought we had the game, but they made some shots and that was the game."

C.J. Black led the Volunteers with 17 points, Vincent Yarbrough had 13 and Ron Slay added 12. Isiah Victor had 11. Forte scored a game-high 22 for the Tar Heels, while Brendan Haywood and Cota each scored 11, followed by Kris Lang with 10.

NOTES: North Carolina defeated Tulsa 74-69 in the Regional Finals to advance to the Final Four ... The Tar Heels then lost to Florida, 59-71, in the national semifinals in Indianapolis.

VISITORS: North Carolina 21-13

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
25	Jason Capel	f	3-9	1-2	2-2	1-4-5	1	9	5	2	0	2	38
42	Kris Lang	f	5-12	0-0	0-0	3-0-3	3	10	0	2	2	1	28
00	Brendan Haywood	c	5-10	0-0	1-4	1-4-5	5	11	0	3	4	0	26
40	Joseph Forte	g	8-13	2-5	4-4	1-4-5	2	22	2	3	1	1	36
05	Ed Cota	g	4-9	0-1	3-5	1-6-7	4	11	5	2	0	1	39
21	Terrence Newby		0-0	0-0	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
24	Max Owens		2-2	1-1	0-0	0-0-0	0	5	0	1	0	1	12
45	Julius Peppers		2-3	0-0	2-2	3-3-6	4	6	0	1	2	0	20
	TEAM					0-3-3							
	Totals		29-58	4-9	12-17	10-24-34	19	74	12	14	9	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 15-32 45.9%	2nd Half: 14-26 53.8%	Game: 50.0%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 3-7 42.9%	2nd Half: 1-2 50.0%	Game: 44.4%
F Throw%	1st Half: 3-4 75.0%	2nd Half: 9-13 69.2%	Game: 70.6%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 26-7

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Vincent Yarbrough	f	4-11	1-5	4-4	2-1-3	3	13	3	2	0	1	38
44	Isiah Victor	f	3-8	1-1	4-6	1-3-4	2	11	1	5	2	3	21
43	C.J. Black	c	6-7	1-1	4-4	1-4-5	4	17	0	1	1	1	21
14	Tony Harris	g	1-10	1-6	1-2	2-2-4	3	4	4	2	0	0	32
42	Jon Higgins	g	3-7	2-5	0-0	1-3-4	1	8	0	0	0	0	35
35	Ron Slay		4-11	0-3	4-4	2-5-7	1	12	1	3	1	2	24
05	Harris Walker		0-3	0-0	2-2	1-2-3	0	2	1	0	0	1	17
55	Charles Hathaway		0-2	0-0	2-2	3-1-4	3	2	1	1	0	1	12
	TEAM					2-2-4							
	Totals		21-59	6-21	21-24	15-23-38	17	69	11	14	4	9	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 13-32 40.6%	2nd Half: 8-27 29.6%	Game: 35.6%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 4-10 40.0%	2nd Half: 2-11 18.2%	Game: 28.6%
F Throw%	1st Half: 9-10 90.0%	2nd Half: 12-14 85.7%	Game: 87.5%

Officials: David Hall, Bob Donato, Mike Kitts
Technical fouls: None
Attendance: 16,371

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
North Carolina	36	38	74
Tennessee	39	30	69

2001 NCAA Midwest Region — First Round

#9	**Charlotte** (22-10)	**70**
#8	**Tennessee** (22-11)	**63**

March 16, 2001 • UD Arena • Dayton, Ohio

Poor shooting in the second half was too much for Tennessee to overcome as the Vols fell 70-63 to Charlotte in the first round of the NCAA Tournament.

The Vols finished the game shooting 42 percent from the field but only 31 percent in the second half. The Vols also hit only 1-of-7 free throw attempts and 1-of-11 three-point attempts in the second half. Free throw shooting plagued the Vols the entire game as they made only 7-of-18. The Vols missed four free throws late in the second half including the front-end of two one-and-ones.

"We just couldn't make a shot," head coach Jerry Green said. "From a coach's perspective, it's frustrating and you feel like you missed an opportunity. But again, those same guys are the ones over the last several years who have made those free throws."

Tennessee opened the game by hitting 10 of its first 17 shots to take a 26-18 lead. Foul trouble proved costly though and Charlotte was able to come back and tie the game by 43 at the half.

The opening of the second half was the mirror opposite of the first half. The Vols scored only four points in the first 10:30 of the second half and were down 52-50 after a three-point shot by Jon Higgins with 9:20 to play.

By that point they had hit only two of 12 shots and committed nine turnovers.

Charlotte eventually opened up a 59-50 lead with 6:59 to play. The Vols battled back and had the ball down by 66-63 with just under 40 seconds left in the game. Tony Harris' three-point attempt was off the mark and the 49ers got the rebound. Jobey Thomas made four free throws in the final 24 seconds to seal the victory for Charlotte.

NOTES: Tennessee was seeded eighth and Charlotte was the No. 9 seed ... Charlotte lost to No. 1 seeded Illinois in the second round ... UT fell to 8-14 all-time in the NCAA Tournament ... The Vols made their first appearance in the Midwest Region ... UT's 191 blocked shots on the season ranks second all-time in school history.

VISITORS: Charlotte 22-10

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
01	James Zimmerman	f	3-6	2-3	0-4	2-4-6	3	8	0	2	0	0	24
05	Rodney White	f	5-16	0-3	2-2	3-6-9	3	12	2	0	0	0	28
03	KenKay Jones	c	1-4	0-0	0-0	0-7-7	5	2	0	1	2	1	21
21	Diego Guevara	g	2-9	1-6	3-3	1-2-3	0	8	1	1	0	1	31
31	Jobey Thomas	g	3-9	2-7	4-4	0-0-0	0	12	0	3	0	2	28
10	Cam Stephens		2-5	0-0	4-4	4-1-5	4	8	1	1	0	1	19
11	Demon Brown		3-7	3-7	0-0	0-2-2	0	9	1	3	0	0	22
13	Jermaine Williams		0-0	0-0	2-2	2-2-4	2	2	0	1	0	0	11
54	Butter Johnson		4-6	0-1	1-4	3-5-8	3	9	0	1	0	0	16
	TEAM					1-2-3				1			
	Totals		23-62	8-27	16-23	16-31-47	20	70	5	14	2	5	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 13-32 40.6%	2nd Half: 10-30 33.3%	Game: 37.1%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-14 35.7%	2nd Half: 3-13 23.1%	Game: 29.6%
F Throw%	1st Half: 12-17 70.6%	2nd Half: 4-6 66.7%	Game: 69.6%

HOME TEAM: Tennessee 22-11

			FG	3PT	FT	REBS O-D-T	PF	TP	A	TO	Bl	St	Min
22	Vincent Yarbrough	f	5-9	1-4	1-3	1-9-10	4	12	3	2	1	1	31
35	Ron Slay	f	3-8	0-2	2-7	2-4-6	4	8	2	4	0	0	21
44	Isiah Victor	c	4-9	0-1	0-1	3-4-7	4	8	2	1	0	0	19
14	Tony Harris	g	2-4	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	2	4	0	1	0	1	20
42	Jon Higgins	g	2-5	1-4	2-2	0-0-0	2	7	0	1	0	1	35
02	Jenis Grindstaff		0-3	0-2	0-0	0-0-0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
05	Harris Walker		0-2	0-0	0-1	0-1-1	3	0	4	2	0	3	15
12	Marcus Haislip		4-10	1-3	1-1	1-3-4	1	10	2	2	0	0	24
31	Terrence Woods		3-7	3-7	0-0	1-3-4	2	9	3	0	0	0	14
55	Charles Hathaway		2-3	0-0	1-3	1-4-5	1	5	0	1	0	0	14
	TEAM					2-0-2							
	Totals		25-60	6-25	7-18	11-28-39	23	63	16	14	1	6	200

TOTAL FG%	1st Half: 16-31 51.6%	2nd Half: 9-29 31.0%	Game: 41.7%
3-Pt. FG%	1st Half: 5-14 35.7%	2nd Half: 1-11 9.1%	Game: 24.0%
F Throw%	1st Half: 6-11 54.5%	2nd Half: 1-7 14.3%	Game: 38.9%

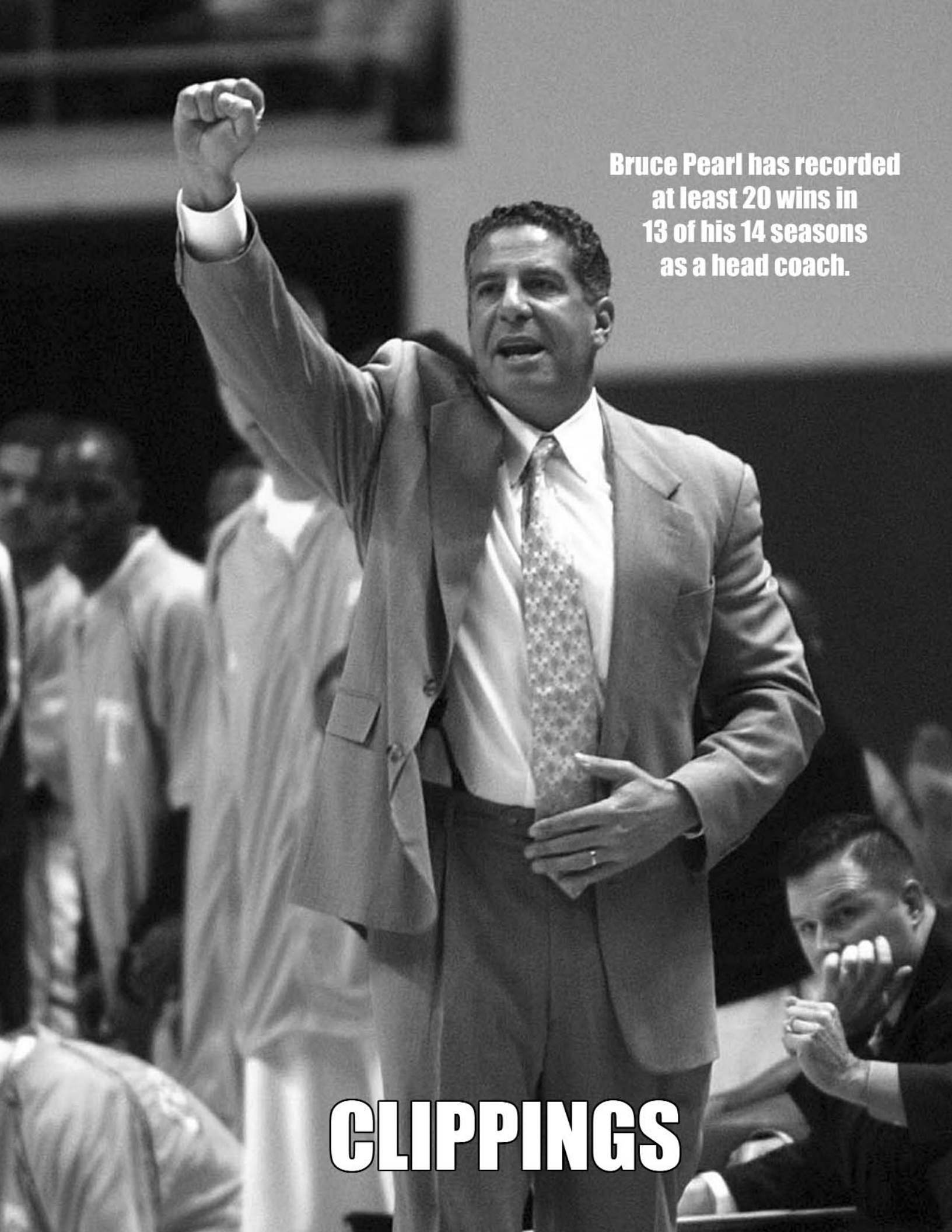
Officials: David Hall, Frank Bosone, Ruben Ramos
Technical fouls: None.
Attendance: 13,009

Score by Periods	1st	2nd	Total
Charlotte	43	27	70
Tennessee	43	20	63

2006 NCAA Tournament — First Round

#15	**Winthrop** (23-7)	
#2	**Tennessee** (21-7)	

March 16, 2006 • Greensboro Coliseum • Greensboro, North Carolina


Bruce Pearl has recorded
at least 20 wins in
13 of his 14 seasons
as a head coach.

CLIPPINGS

Pearl says fans merit a winner

Discusses his plans to make basketball at UT competitive

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

July 19, 2005

Tennessee men's basketball coach Bruce Pearl put his objectives on the table for all media to hear during Monday's SEC teleconference.

"They expect to win here at Tennessee, and they win at everything," Pearl said. "And they don't just win; they win championships."

Pearl isn't predicting a title his first season, but he vows to put a competitive team on the floor that will know and adhere to his controlled chaos.

At least, they'd better if the Vols hope to stay close in games with Kentucky and recently scheduled opponents Oklahoma State and Texas this season.

"A lot of people had an opportunity to play Oklahoma State and Texas, but there weren't many callers because those programs are at the top (and) people didn't want to schedule a loss," Pearl said. "The thing they have in common, is they're both on ESPN. If we're going to get back into the national spotlight, we've got to get ourselves back on TV."

Oklahoma State will play a return game with UT in Nashville or Memphis in 2006-07, while Texas will play in Thompson Boling Arena in 2006-07. Hamilton is negotiating the Oklahoma State game for Fed Ex Forum or the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

The Vols will play Murray State at the Gaylord Entertainment Center this year. Pearl said there are a couple of reasons UT is playing the early season non-conference game there.

"It's all about the SEC Tournament," Pearl said. "So to get the team on the floor there earlier in the season is vital. We'll spend the night where we'll spend the night at the SEC Tournament, and it should make playing there a second time more comfortable.

"Secondly, going to Nashville extends our fan base. We wanted to play a good Ohio Valley team. That conference is centered around Nashville."

Pearl said getting competitive with the Wildcats is near the top of his list of priorities, as well.

"People are anxious to get back to the day when we used to be Kentucky's rival," Pearl said. "No team in the SEC has beat Kentucky as many times as us. We beat Kentucky 62 times; the next closest team is Vanderbilt at 38.

"Losing nine out of the last 10 to Kentucky is obviously not as competitive as we need to be," Pearl said. "As an outsider looking in, if you asked me who Kentucky's rival is in the East, I'd say Florida because that's the team that's been challenging them in the East. It is what it is."

Rivalry II?: In addition to Kentucky, UT enthusiasts have enjoyed rivalries with Vanderbilt and Alabama.

However, Vandy coach Kevin Stallings and Alabama coach Mark Gottfried seem downright chummy with Pearl.

"I've known Bruce for a long time, and his team was very, very impressive at Wisconsin-Milwaukee," Stallings said. "I was watching his son (Steven) play the other day at a recruiting event. I was going to ask Bruce if we could recruit him, but I was afraid that would be an illegal contact."

Pearl chuckled when hearing of Stallings' comments.

"I'd love to have a son at Vanderbilt," Pearl said. "One, it's a great school, and two, if that's the best they could get, they'd be in trouble."

Gottfried predicted Pearl would "jump start" UT.

"He's an excellent coach ... I think Bruce is going to do a great job," said Gottfried, whose team was upset by Pearl's Wisconsin-Milwaukee squad in last year's NCAA tourney. "Their style will be a little different for people in our league."

Pearl said Gottfried is one reason he didn't coach in the state of Tennessee earlier.

"I was once a finalist for the head coaching job at Middle Tennessee," Pearl said. "I withdrew when I looked at what Mark was doing at that time at Murray State, because the OVC only got one NCAA bid a year, and I felt that would be Murray for a few years."

Pearl wants to wear out Ernie and Bernie

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

September 22, 2005

It's been said one key to success is to look the part.

So maybe donning throwback jerseys from Tennessee's Ernie and Bernie Era can help the men's basketball team this season.

UT coach Bruce Pearl said league schools will wear throwback jerseys at the SEC tournament in Nashville, and his Vols will wear them periodically through the season.

"We looked at a lot of them, and the design that was selected was the Ernie and Bernie uniform," Pearl said. "It says 'Tennessee Volunteers,' as opposed to just 'Tennessee,' and it has light blue in it. It's really cool.

"We'll wear that uniform on more than just special occasions."

Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King combined to lead the Vols to a 61-20 record during their three seasons together, 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77.

The throwback uniforms are among many things UT hopes will entice fans to turn out for games.

Pearl said the No. 1 thing the Vols can do to increase attendance is win games.

"This program has been ranked in the Top 25 in attendance the last 25 years," Pearl said. "But the team hasn't been ranked in the Top 25 all those years, so we have some catching up to do."

Pearl said attendance-to-wins ratio is sort of a chicken-egg thing.

"It's like, which has to come first?" Pearl said. "I know if I win people will come watch us. But then, we need the people there to give us a home-court advantage and win games. I want the fans to be a part of the solution."

Pearl promises fans will like the Vols' playing style: "It's gonna be intense, and we'll play hard and unselfishly."

Backcourt: Asked how guard Chris Lofton looks in the new offense, Pearl said, "I'll let you know when he misses his first shot this fall."

In all seriousness, Pearl believes his offensive sets will make Lofton more effective.

"Because we like to spread things out, he's effective," Pearl said. "If he's going to be guarded, he's effective because there's one less person to clog the lane.

"If he's unguarded, he'll catch the ball and shoot it."

Pearl said the Vols also will use a great deal of ball screens, further freeing up Lofton and point guard C.J. Watson.

"C.J. has to be more aggressive getting off his own shot," Pearl said. "I don't think that will be a problem because he doesn't have the pressures of trying to get the ball to Brandon Crump or Scooter (McFagdon).

"Both C.J. and Chris have looked good in our work, along with Major Wingate."

Pearl's Swamp Take: Here's what Pearl had to say after attending UT's football game at Florida:

"I've been to some tough places to play (basketball), at Duke, Purdue, Owensboro, Ky., and I would say that The Swamp would have to rank in the top two or three places I've been to that were difficult to win because of the crowd noise and the environment."

Recruiting: Pearl's recruiting stops this week included Charlotte, N.C., Atlanta, Memphis and Milwaukee.

Pearl will attend the wedding of Ken Johnson, UT's director of basketball operations, Sunday in Milwaukee.

Pearl sees Kentucky as UT's benchmark

By Brett Hait, Nashville *The City Paper*

October 28, 2005

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. - Bruce Pearl insisted that he wasn't placing a target on Kentucky during his first appearance at Southeastern Conference Media Days on Thursday.

But it certainly sounded that way.

The new Tennessee coach said that in order for a moribund program to be revived, the Vols must raise their expectations. That's where the Wildcats come in.

"Whatever I do at Tennessee, it will be to beat Kentucky, because they're the best team in the conference," Pearl said. "If you can't figure out a system or recruit players to beat Kentucky, the rest of it just doesn't matter."

The Vols and Wildcats were once mortal enemies. In fact, as Pearl was quick to point out Thursday, no team has defeated Kentucky more than Tennessee.

But the rivalry has become one-sided. The Wildcats have won eight straight games and 10 of the last 11.

"In order for there to be a rivalry, it has to be competitive, and it hasn't been competitive," Pearl said. "I'm not calling out Kentucky. Don't misunderstand me. I'm saying this completely out of respect for their program, but that's where you have to set the bar."

Kentucky coach Tubby Smith took the challenge in stride.

"I know what he's trying to instill," he said. "He's trying to inject some energy and excitement for his program."

Energy and excitement have been missing at Tennessee, which finished 14-17 a year ago, leading to the firing of coach Buzz Peterson.

Meanwhile, Pearl led upstart Wisconsin-Milwaukee to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament after upsetting Alabama. In 13 seasons at a head coach at Wisconsin-Milwaukee and Southern Indiana, Pearl averaged more than 24 wins per year and reached the NCAA Tournament 11 times. He is the second-fastest Division I coach to claim 300 victories.

Will his up-tempo, pressing style, which Pearl describes as "controlled chaos," work similar magic at Tennessee?

"There's no question in my mind that Tennessee can support a men's championship basketball program," he said. "We're not there yet, but that's what we're working toward."

The 2005-06 season might not be the time for significant improvement for the Vols, who one of only two SEC teams to have failed to reach the NCAA Tournament since 2001.

Tennessee features a solid backcourt in guards C.J. Watson and Chris Lofton, but the frontcourt is bare and depth is virtually non-existent.

"We're going to have to upgrade the talent," Pearl said. "The problem isn't so much in the

quality as it is the quantity. Our numbers are down."

That's not going to prevent Pearl from implementing his style of play. Few teams in the SEC apply full-court pressure defense, which Pearl believes could work to Tennessee's favor. But the Vols also might pay for it dearly while they recruit better talent.

"You can be real patient, hold the ball, play real passively defensively and try to kind of hang in there and maybe steal a game or two. That makes sense. But if we do that, I'm sending my players and the people of Tennessee a big fat message that we're not good enough to compete in the SEC. That's not how I want to build this program.

"We're going to be the aggressor. We're going to attack. We're going to be more physical. And there are some nights we're going to get run out of the house because of it. But we're going to recruit players who want to play that way, and I think the players we have right now will play better because of that."

Rebuilding UT will be Pearl's greatest challenge

Passion, hustle, smarts, can be used to describe ... The Chair-Man

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

October 30, 2005

In his pocket was a business card with a self-important title for an 18-year-old: Bruce Pearl, Student Director of Promotions.

The year is 2005. Just last week.

Bruce Pearl marched into another campus cafeteria, climbed on a chair and announced to all who would listen that the basketball team needed their support.

These days his business card reads: Bruce Pearl, Head Basketball coach, University of Tennessee.

"I'm still standing on a chair," Pearl said with a chuckle last week in his Thompson-Boling Arena office.

"By the way, the reaction was great," he added.

Seven months into his new mission - reviving men's basketball at Tennessee - Pearl is getting a great reaction most everywhere he goes.

"Tell him that's because he hasn't coached a game yet," said Dr. Tom Davis.

Davis, the basketball coach at Drake University, was more or less responsible for putting Pearl on his first chair.

Well, the chair was Pearl's idea. But it was Davis, then the coach at Boston College, who saw something in the spunky freshman he had cut after a tryout as a walk-on player.

Passion, hustle, smarts, all of the above.

"He started out in a very minor capacity," Davis recalled, "helping build student support.

"Then over the next two or three years, he was doing everything. He's just that kind of guy."

That's why UT athletic director Mike Hamilton hired Pearl last March to replace Buzz Peterson. He's the Vols' sixth coach since 1989, a strong hint the challenge is daunting.

Pearl's coaching success at Wisconsin-Milwaukee and, before that, at Southern Indiana, was certainly a major part of the equation. But UT required more.

"Mike Hamilton had to look into the fact that there are a lot of guys who can coach basketball," Pearl said.

"But there aren't a lot of guys who can build a program. You've got to do a lot more than just coach the basketball team."

'Didn't know you were ' Building a program, coaching a team, it never occurred to young Bruce Pearl that he would make his living doing any of that.

Sure, he loved sports, playing and coaching. But make a living out of it?

"I never saw myself being a high-school teacher, so I wasn't considering coaching," Pearl said. "I never even thought about college coaching."

Growing up in Sharon, Mass., a Boston suburb, Pearl rooted for the Celtics, the Red Sox and the Patriots. But what really made him tick was playing or officiating whatever sport was in season.

His first coaching assignment was Team Six, an elementary basketball team. When Team Six won a championship and the coach promised hot fudge sundaes, the parents had to give the coach a ride, too. He was only 13.

"I loved teaching, I loved the kids, I loved winning," Pearl said.

He loved playing, too. But after he took a helmet to the knee in a high school freshman football game, his athletic career was never the same.

He still played baseball, basketball and football at Sharon High. His favorite was basketball.

"I liked the smell of the leather ball," Pearl said. "I could be in a gym all day every day."

When it was time to choose a college, Pearl didn't follow the conventional path.

Boston College was a Catholic school. Most Jewish kids went to Boston University.

Pearl's grandparents had immigrated to Boston from Europe in the early 1920s. His grandfather, Jack Pearlmutter, came from Austria, his grandmother from Russia.

Pearl was born in 1960 in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. His parents, Bernie and Barbara, moved to the suburbs when he started school.

"Boston was a very racist town, very ethnically divided," Pearl said. "You couldn't go from one neighborhood to the other because of your color or your religion or your creed and that really bothered me.

"I was tired of hearing, 'I didn't know you were Jewish?' or 'I didn't know Jewish guys played ball.'

"So my whole life was sort of trying to convert the masses. It bothers me that people are not tolerant of each other's differences."

Another attraction, BC also played big-time basketball. Pearl's walk-on tryout dispelled any hope of hustling his way onto the team. Still, Davis realized a go-getter when he saw one.

Drumming up student support was a start.

As a junior, student-manager Pearl once filled in for an ill student and donned the BC Eagle mascot uniform in an NCAA tournament game. But as a freshman, he would pull a sheet over his head and run through the crowd as "Eagle Spirit."

This he reveals sheepishly. "I was off the charts," he said.

He was soon becoming indispensable, tackling whatever chore Davis required.

"He was always there," said Davis. "The more you're there, the more you learn.

"After a while you couldn't do without him, he was so good at so many things."

Life-changing phone call And that is why one night in the spring of his senior year, 1982, Pearl got a phone call from Davis.

The Eagles had just been eliminated from the NCAA tournament, losing to Houston's Phi Slamma Jamma team in Kansas City. Pearl had gone to Nashua, N.H., to spend the weekend with his girlfriend, Kim.

"He said he needed to talk to me, would I come to his home," Pearl said. "I thought, 'Oh, no, what have I done now?' "

Any prior summons to Davis' home had involved Pearl getting in some kind of trouble on campus.

But now, his act was clean. He was set to graduate with a degree in business. He had job offers from Xerox and Proctor & Gamble.

"I was going to make good money in sales," Pearl said. "It was done.

"I never worked a day for (Davis) thinking I was going to get into coaching as a career."

Davis was going to Stanford and offered his student-manager a position as restricted-earnings coach. The next morning, they were on a plane to California.

He could always fall back and make money later.

Special deliveries Here he was, still technically an undergrad at BC, working as an assistant coach in California.

For 10 more years, Pearl stuck with Davis, four at Stanford, then six at Iowa.

He never considered going back to a "real" job. He married the girlfriend, Kim - a Catholic of Italian-American heritage - and four children followed.

Kim, a niece of the late basketball coach Norm Sloan, probably knew what she was getting into.

The Pearls' oldest daughter, Jacqui, was born the weekend Pearl was hosting a recruit on an official visit.

"Kim was checked out of the hospital and sitting in the lobby," Pearl recalled. "I was two hours late to pick up her and my firstborn to take them home. She was in the lobby so long they readmitted her. They didn't want her and the baby sitting in the lobby."

Son Steven's delivery was induced so Pearl get on the road to make a first-day home visit to Iowa recruit Acie Earl.

When daughter Leah was born, Pearl was at the hospital - with his staff watching film of the Argentina national team, an exhibition opponent.

"I'm a cad," Pearl said. "An absolute scoundrel."

You wouldn't get any argument out of Illinois fans.

While an assistant at Iowa in 1989, Pearl secretly tape-recorded a phone conversation with top prospect Deon Thomas, who was in a tug-of-war between Iowa and Illinois. Pearl's tape contributed to an NCAA investigation into alleged infractions by Illinois.

Pearl was tagged a whistle-blower. Illini fans used - and still do - more colorful language.

The affect the incident had on Pearl's career is debatable. At any rate, when his head-coaching break came, it was at Division II Southern Indiana.

Be yourself Evansville, Ind., sits on the Ohio River, across from western Kentucky. There wasn't much in the way of Jewish culture to be found, but producing an instant winner assured the welcome mat was out. Pearl was even asked to be grand marshal at the city's Christmas parade.

"I went there at 32 to find out if I could be a head coach," he said. "At that point, I didn't know.

"I'd always worked with Tom. Now Tom and I are completely different but he told me that's OK: Do what we do, but be yourself."

So Pearl stood on a chair in the school cafeteria. He hustled support. And he won.

Pearl took over a 10-18 team and never won fewer than 22 games. He won a national title his third year.

It was nine years before he left for a promising mid-major program at Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He headed to the cafeteria

"You had to be a promoter there," said assistant coach Tony Jones, who followed Pearl from UWM to Tennessee. "He was like a fund-raiser a basketball coach and a community advocate all at the same time.

"He wore many different hats."

And he won more.

This time people noticed. Tennessee pounced on Pearl after last year's Cinderella Sweet 16 run.

"You know," Pearl said. "Team Six had always been my greatest challenge, more than Southern Indiana or Milwaukee.

"I think Tennessee is probably a greater challenge than Team Six."

He says this because he sees the SEC as an unforgiving league. Doesn't matter if you're playing Kentucky or Ole Miss, you better bring your "A" game.

"The difference for me is not the other coaches," he said. "It's the quality of the players.

"Will what we do night in and night out with pressure defense and uptempo basketball, will that work?"

It can work. But he needs players to make it work, players he must get in the most cut-throat recruiting environment he has ever faced.

He needs a home-court advantage to make it work. He needs crowds in his cavernous arena. He needs a different feel in his arena.

"The upgrading and improvement of Thompson-Boling Arena," Pearl said, "is the No. 1 most important factor if we want to get this men's basketball program up to be a nationally competitive team."

So he's wooing donors for a practice facility, exploring ways to restructure the seating chart and recruiting not only prospective players but prospective fans.

"It's all potentially doable," Pearl said.

True to form, he's wearing many different hats.

"Bruce is very well suited for the job at Tennessee," said Davis.

"There's a lot of things to do besides the basketball things."

Common theme: Give Pearl, Vols time

By Mark Burgess, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

November 4, 2005

The feeling was unanimous.

Give it time.

An ex-player, an ex-coach, the opposing coach and the UT athletic director all said the same thing about Bruce Pearl and his Tennessee men's basketball program.

The Pearl era got its first test under fire with a hard-fought 86-78 exhibition victory Thursday night against Division II Southern Indiana.

"I'm glad we're not playing them three years from now," Southern Indiana coach Rick Herdes said. "When we went to Milwaukee (for a game against Pearl two years ago), he had the system in.

"The biggest thing they have to do is buy into his system. They'll be a dang good basketball team and they'll hang banners in this gym."

Give it time.

Southern Indiana did. Pearl coached the Screaming Eagles for nine years, compiling a 231-46 record and winning the 1995 Division II national title.

Herdes was one of Pearl's assistants then, and one of his biggest fans now.

"I love the man to death," he said. "He's a winner.

"Their relentless pressure kind of wore us out. That was the difference in the basketball game, and he'll win some games that way this year."

Legendary former UT coach Ray Mears was in his customary side-court seat. He saw the same things, including some of the showmanship he was famous for in the 1970s.

"I thought they worked hard," he said. "He put in some pressure and they got some offense going off of that."

Former guard Jon Higgins was front and center checking out the new-look Tennessee team.

"I think it's going to be very promising," Higgins said, just back from playing in a pro league in Austria. "I think they have some work to do, but as Bruce gets his players in, I think they'll be pretty good.

"You've got to give him some time and you've also got to realize Southern Indiana is a top-10 team in Division II. They're not bad at all."

Finally, the man with one of the biggest smiles on his face was UT athletic director Mike Hamilton.

"It's a process," he said. "I had a visit for a while today with the athletic director at Southern Indiana (Jon Mark Hall), a longtime friend of mine, and he said, 'Mike, I'm going to tell you, he's going to win. I don't have a doubt in my mind.'

"People need to realize that and give him a little time. He knows how to get it done. There's just something about him."

A crowd announced at 10,808 showed up for the first serious glimpse of Pearl's up-tempo system and energy.

They also got their first listen as Pearl's daughter, Jacqui, earned a big ovation with her singing of the national anthem.

Later, the guard tandem of C.J. Watson and Chris Lofton brought the crowd to its feet again with 27 and 26 points, respectively.

"I hope the fans got a taste," Hamilton said. "Guys were diving on the floor, taking charges.

"The other thing is, this group of guys needs to get a couple of wins to get some confidence back. We've had a couple of tough years, so it was a good night."

Hamilton was already taking mental notes on how to improve the atmosphere in the arena.

Look for more noise in the future.

"We're going to go with an 80-piece pep band, which is a doubling, almost tripling of our pep band in the past," he said. "All in all, it was a good start.

"But we're committed to doing a lot of things around the program to show change. A few of those things started taking shape tonight."

Just give it time.

Jack-of-all-trades Bradshaw passionate about his Eagles

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

November 9, 2005

KNOXVILLE - On the basketball court this season, Tennessee's Dane Bradshaw will be hard to miss.

Versatility is his forte. He might play point guard one game and power forward the next, while filling in at the other wing positions at times.

Bradshaw is also hard to miss during football season. He's the one every Sunday wearing the Randall Cunningham jersey and screaming his head off for his beloved Philadelphia Eagles.

"I'm Catholic, so I have to plan around what daily mass I go to," said Bradshaw. "If the Eagles play at 4, then I have to go to noon mass."

Bradshaw was in Philadelphia for the Raiders game this season and was on hand last year for Terrell Owens' first game as an Eagle.

And, yes, he still has nightmares about the Super Bowl last season.

"I had people calling me I hadn't heard from in three years," said Bradshaw, who owns an official Eagles helmet autographed by quarterback Donovan McNabb.

The Vols' versatile junior is an easy target for his teammates.

He once ran into Darwin Walker, an Eagles defensive lineman and former All-SEC performer at Tennessee, when Walker was in Knoxville.

"All the guys wanted to know if I acted like a groupie," Bradshaw joked

Runnin', Gunnin' Pearl

Is this new coach poised to lead the Vols out of the wilderness?

by Brooks Clark, *Metro Pulse*

November 10, 2005

In the beginning (1987), there was a void.

And that void was Thompson-Boling Arena. And that void held 25,535 seats. And that was good, because it was bigger than Rupp Arena in the land of basketball to the north.

But the people of the land of Orange were jealous, because they thought their leader, Don Devoe, could not fill the void.

So the call went out into the land of the north for a great prophet-but the best they could do was Wade Houston, an assistant at Louisville, who at least had a son who was a mighty warrior who could smite a foe every now and then.

But Wade was too smooth a man, and he had many losses.

So he begat Kevin O'Neill, who (though balding) was too hairy a man, whose Yankee mouth spake many an epithet, who gave lip to John Ward (gasp!), and whose boring offense caused the angels and everyone else to fall asleep.

So Kevin O'Neill begat Jerry Green.

Jerry Green four times took the people of Orange to the Land of Milk and Honey (the NCAA tournament). But in a Sweet 16 game against the land of basketball to the East, the Vols blew a 10-point lead with five minutes remaining, and the people said it was not good. And Jerry was surly to the local media and boosters. And the people were sore annoyed.

So Jerry begat Buzz, who had been suckled in the land of basketball to the East, where he had been best friends with Michael Jordan, the mightiest warrior of them all. And Buzz was a great guy. But his teams were like lost sheep.

And so the call went out again for a prophet to lead the people of the Orange out of the wilderness, to fill the void of 25,535 seats the way Pat Summitt can, to recruit the top players the way Kentucky and North Carolina do.

The tale of Tennessee basketball has become a Biblical epic, with each chapter telling a different tale of human failing and foible-and at its root a massive inferiority complex to the Kentucky and North Carolina programs on our northern and eastern flanks. "Yeah, maybe the Vols should have simply counted their blessings back when they had Don DeVoe," says Sports Illustrated senior writer Alexander Wolff.

Now, after these 16 years of wandering, Tennessee basketball has chosen another prophet to lead it out of the wilderness.

This is a prophet who went to a Jesuit college to convert the Catholic masses to the idea that Jews are cool, too.

On blown-out knees, in college he worked every angle of learning the game at the highest levels-selling radio ads, even dressing up in the Eagle mascot outfit when the regular mascot was sick.

As an assistant at Iowa, this prophet took a stand against sleazy recruiting by turning in a corrupt Illinois program to the NCAA.

In the eyes of many, he was sent into the wilderness for his act of coaching suicide, but after nine years and a Division II national title as head coach at Southern Indiana and four at the commuter school Wisconsin-Milwaukee, he was on the short list of top young coaches in the country.

Then his name was underlined on that short list when his spunky, aggressive Wisco-

Waukeeans upset Alabama in the NCAA tournament and beat his alma mater, Boston College, before losing to top-seeded Illinois in the Sweet 16.

Throw It Up Before You Throw It Away

In the coming weeks UT fans will truly get to meet Bruce Pearl and see whether he can coach the Vols to run a relentless fast break and play full-court defense the way his team did last March.

"The style he coaches is a polar opposite of O'Neill ball," says Wolff. "In fact, this figures to be the most entertaining brand of ball to hit town since the days of Ray Mears." Pearl is going to run and gun, and it's going to start right now. His system is about making plays and making a commitment to the up-tempo game.

"You throw it up before you throw it away," Pearl says, quoting a Lou Holtz laugh line. Pearl admits that it takes time to learn to play the up-tempo game. "It will look undisciplined at times, but our opponent is also going to go faster. The only way to learn to play that game is to play that game. At Milwaukee, we really got it in our fourth year."

Last spring, right after Pearl was hired, sophomore guard Chris Lofton, who made 93 three-pointers as a freshman, gave some thought to switching schools. But Lofton looked at the films of Pearl's teams and decided that the style of play was to his liking. "Throw it up before you throw it away" sounds just fine to a 46.5-percent three-point shooter. "We're going to get him open," says Pearl, "and when he gets open, he's going to make shots."

That's pretty much how it went in an 86-78 pre-season exhibition game victory last week over Southern Indiana, as the Vols forced 27 turnovers and Watson and Lofton scored 27 and 26 points, respectively.

Pearl says the Vols will attack the ball from one end of the floor to the other. Pearl's favorite press is a 1-2-1-1, with one man on the ball, the next two ready to trap the first pass.

"It's controlled chaos," says Pearl. "It's taking on our opponents to open up the court."

The average basketball fan might ask "Why would you play that way when your numbers are down and your talent is, well, rebuilding?

"An up-tempo style increases the number of possessions in a game," says SI's Wolff, "which in turn gives superior talent a chance to win out. That may have worked at Wisco-Waukee; my question is whether to play that style in the SEC, when you have second-division talent, is a sign of a death wish. BP has to be hoping that the style will deliver better talent than anyone at Tennessee has been used to."

I Can Do It

Pearl grew up in the suburb of Sharon, Mass., next door to Foxboro. He even played a football game on the old AstroTurf of what was then Schaeffer Stadium, in the days when the turf was just a carpet laid on top of asphalt. "It's amazing how hard it was," recalls Bruce.

His parents, Bernie and Barbara, had lived across the street from each other in hardscrabble Dorchester-Mattapan, Mass., from the time Barbara was three years old. "Bruce comes from a very, very close-knit family," says Barbara. Her parents, Jean and Hyman Rosenberg, were the children of Russian immigrants. Hyman was an accountant for the state of Massachusetts.

Bernie's mother had immigrated from Russia. His father, Jack Pearlmutter, a plumber, had immigrated from Austria in the 1920s.

Bernie shortened the name after working in a busy Robert Hall retail clothing store, where-rather than shout out "Bernie Pearlmutter" every time they called for him, they shortened it to "Pearl." Bernie and Barbara changed it legally before Bruce was born and moved to Sharon when Bruce was three.

Bernie was a housewares and hardware manufacturer's rep. "We represented many factories," says Bernie. "If you had an order, we could fill it."

Bernie and Barbara brought up Bruce and his sister, Lauren, as reform Jews, following the modern movement that embraces innovations while preserving Jewish traditions.

Now retired in Boynton Beach, Fla., Bernie and Barbara recently spent several post-hurricane weeks in Knoxville. Lauren, an occupational therapist in Boca Raton, was still waiting for electric power as the month of November began.

Young Bruce played football, basketball and tennis. Then, his freshman year in high school he tore up the cartilage on both sides of his knees playing quarterback in Pop Warner football.

"My whole identity was athletics," he says. "While I was still a good athlete, I was never the same."

His doctor was Arthur Pappas, the orthopedic surgeon for the Red Sox. "When Bruce knew he was done with sports, he wasn't doing well healing emotionally," recalls Bernie. "Dr. Pappas took Bruce down to a ward where patients had lost limbs and told him, 'You've lost the ability to play sports. These people have lost their ability to do much more than that.'"

"Things happen for a reason," says Pearl. "I was the best athlete in town, but I don't know that I was the best person. It changed my life. I ran for student government and was senior class president. I met different kids than I was running around with in athletics. It made me kinder."

When he couldn't play basketball his sophomore year in high school, Pearl was in a play, "a British comedy," he recalls, "I was the straight man."

"He was the butler," recalls Barbara. "It opened with him fixing a light bulb and saying, 'I can do it.'"

"Since I couldn't play, I decided to coach." He coached fifth-grade baseball, football and basketball teams.

If Pearl needed preparation for the frustrations of UT basketball, he got plenty as a Red Sox fan. He shared the regional brain aneurysm of watching a hobbled Bill Buckner bend over and miss the ground ball that could have won the 1986 World Series against the ill-mannered Mets but instead extended the curse of the Bambino another 18 years.

"And don't forget Bucky Dent" he's quick to add. "A 315-foot line drive, that's what it was." In 1978, in an end-of-regular-season playoff game, Dent, the Yankees' shortstop, hit a ninth-inning homer that nestled into the net just atop the Big Green Monster in Fenway Park. Even after the catharsis of last year's World Series win, Red Sox fans still feel the pain of these things.

After high school, Pearl chose Jesuit Boston College, because it had a big-time sports program as well as big-time academics-"not quite Ivy League, but just a hair below."

"He could have gone to Boston College and support himself," says Bernie, "or he could have gone to UMass, and we'd buy him a car. He chose to support himself. He had the maturity for it."

"Since most of the population was non-Jewish," says Pearl, "I went there to BC to convert the masses-to make them see that Jewish people could be cool, too."

The result: "They thought I was Italian," he says.

"I wore a Chai [a small ornament made up of the two Hebrew letters that spell the word for "life"]. I still wear it on my sleeve."

"Bruce is not what you'd call a religious Jew," says his Father. "But he's a very ethnic Jew. He says, 'I was brought up Jewish. It's an important tradition. It's an important part of my identity...'"

Adds Barbara, "He's a person who might say, 'I'm not necessarily going to go to temple all the time, but I'm going to make sure anyone who wants to can always have the opportunity."

"Being Jewish and being an athlete," says Pearl, "I was big on breaking down stereotypes."

Pearl grew up near Boston around the era of forced school busing, when passions had spotlighted racial divisions-between Catholics and Protestants, blacks and whites, let alone Jews-on the national stage. "With Boston's diversity within religions and within ethnicity and within neighborhoods, there can be a lack of tolerance," says Pearl. "It bothered me to my core. I've always tried to try to show people that we've all got so much more in common than we do apart."

Where Eagles Dare

Pearl didn't make coach Tom Davis' BC basketball team as a walk-on, but he practiced with the team, refereed practices, and did whatever he could to be helpful.

Since Pearl was a marketing major, Davis, now the coach at Drake, asked him to put together a program marketing the BC basketball program.

Pearl formed the Courtside Club, sold ads for radio broadcasts and, famously, for a 1981 first-round NCAA tournament game against Ball State, once wore the Eagle mascot outfit when the regular mascot was sick. Over time, Pearl became Davis' right-hand man.

At one point, Pearl was working on a project with his best friend and suitemate, Rich Shrigley, a four-year starter on the BC basketball team whose uncle was the late Norm Sloan, the longtime Florida coach who won a national title in 1974 coaching the great David Thompson at North Carolina State.

Pearl needed to get his part of the project typed. Shrigley said his sister, Kim, who worked in Boston, typed papers. Pearl brought the paper over and met Kim for the first time, but not the last, as they began to see each other. "Rich wasn't real happy about it."

Being the niece of a high-profile basketball coach was probably helpful preparation for Kim's future life. Says Pearl. "She would understand what a ridiculous life she would lead should she choose to marry a coach."

Nearing graduation, Pearl, a business major, had tempting job offers in sales, including one as district manager for men's toiletries for Procter and Gamble.

But Davis, who'd been hired by Stanford, offered Pearl a job as personal assistant, to try out coaching to see if he'd like it. Pearl took a chance. The position evolved into assistant coach at Stanford (1982-86) and then at Iowa (86-92), when Davis moved there.

Call Me Ishmael

Pearl knows what it is to be sent into the desert.

In December of 1988, as an assistant at Iowa, Pearl was recruiting Deon Thomas, a 6'9" Chicago high school and an Illinois' "Mr. Basketball." Early on he said he wanted to come to Iowa. But then he started to change his mind. In extended notes, Pearl wrote that Thomas told him that Illinois assistant coach Jimmy Collins told Thomas that his grandmother could move to a nicer building if he signed with the Illini. When Thomas told the Illinois assistant that his grandmother didn't want to move, the coach offered to have her place fixed up.

Over the next few months Pearl taped conversations and kept track of what he heard. On Feb. 1, 1989, Thomas told Pearl he'd been offered $80,000 and a new Blazer if he would sign a letter of intent to come to Illinois. This was the most Illinois had-to that point-offered a recruit.

Pearl wrote it all up and turned it in to the NCAA, which started a huge, nasty fracas.

None other than TV commentator Dick Vitale said it was "totally unethical" to tape the phone call and said he had committed "professional suicide," but Pearl got supporting letters from such eminences grises as Lute Olson and Dean Smith. Some of the accused parties started a ridiculous campaign saying it was Pearl who had done the offering.

Although these specific allegations were never proven, Illinois was nailed on other infractions and placed on probation in 1991.

Pearl was as popular with Illinois as Phil Fulmer is with Alabama. You can still find a blog

on the Internet entitled, “Bruce Pearl: Get ready, rat, because the Illini are coming.”

Pearl’s head-coaching job opportunities were narrowed to Division II Southern Indiana (1992-2001), where he won a Division II National Title in 1995, and Wisconsin-Milwaukee (2001-2005), a commuter school where he managed to do well on the national recruiting scene despite being generally overshadowed in the state by Wisconsin-Madison, Marquette, and Wisconsin-Green Bay. In those 13 years, Pearl reached the 300-win level faster than any coach in NCAA history except Roy Williams of Kansas and North Carolina.

“Some say I committed coaching suicide by doing what I did,” says Pearl. “Well, I’m here.”

“I’m an idealist,” he continues. “As a teacher, as an educator working with young people, I’ve got to do the right thing. It’s taught me to handle adversity in my life as a coach and a teacher. That which doesn’t kill me makes me stronger.” In practical terms, says Pearl, his experience handling adversity means, “We’re never out of a game.”

Genesis to Exodus

So let’s review once more the Old Testament saga that led Tennessee to Bruce Pearl.

Back in the 1980s Don Devoe was a good man and a solid coach who in 1989 was thrown into a pit and sold to camel caravan. As Joseph did in Egypt, DeVoe ended up thriving at Navy before retiring in 2004.

In his place came Wade Houston, a man whose boss at Louisville, Denny Crum, once worked for John Wooden at UCLA. In college basketball, this is the equivalent of having worked with Moses. Houston came from Maryville, which was nice. He was also the SEC’s first black coach-a positive for Tennessee that Doug Dickey ruined by making it clear he wouldn’t enjoy the standard membership to Cherokee Country Club that was part of every coach’s package.

Houston had a son, Allan, who was a great college player and recently retired from an amazing NBA career. But Houston the elder let the workers in his vineyard toil as they pleased, and he wasn’t much of a recruiter, and the basketball was ugly, and UT let him go after five years.

Tired of the gentlemanly Houston, UT sought out Kevin O’Neill, a foul-mouthed, no-nonsense, defense-oriented Yankee whose aggressive recruiting exploits became national legends. He once dressed up in a gorilla costume to impress a recruit and bugged recruits’ rooms to find out what they were thinking. If a recruit said he thought the girls weren’t good looking on a campus, O’Neill would make sure the impression was remedied. Like King David writing the Psalms, O’Neill introduced UT athletics to some choice New York State vocabulary. “How else is an Irishman supposed to express himself?” asked his own mother about O’Neill’s salty expletives.

When O’Neill first beheld living-legend-Voice-of-the-Vols John Ward, he said, “I’m going to mess with that guy.” Soon after, he uttered a “p” word during a post-game show.

O’Neill’s recruiting brought plenty of talent, but O’Neill is said to have shared a particular weakness with King David. When cell-phone records indicated not one but several Bathshebas around town, O’Neill departed for the NBA.

Maybe Jerry Green was Lot. He won 20 games and made the NCAA tournament four straight years. His team once got to the NCAA Sweet 16, but they blew that 10-point lead to North Carolina and Green turned into a pillar of salt, like Lot’s wife.

Buzz Peterson was Job, in a way--such a nice guy, who kept having rotten luck. In his first weeks, his two experienced guards came up positive for smoking dope. With savvy, sharpshooting guards, basketball teams tend to look pretty good. With the loss of those two Peterson lost his best chance of starting out on a good foot, and it went downhill from there.

After all that, we know what we don’t want-all of the above.

But what do we want?

Family Life in Knoxpatch

Pearl certainly has a better PR sense than a couple of his predecessors.

“Culturally, BP is a bit like O’Neill, in that he’s a direct northeastern guy and would seem at first glance to be an odd fit in K-ville,” says SI’s Alex Wolff. “But his personality is much more positive than KO’s, and my sense is that he’ll wear a whole lot better. Which wouldn’t be all that hard, of course.”

O’Neill was from upstate New York, a few miles from the Canadian border, and went to college at McGill, the Harvard of Canada. Where O’Neill didn’t care what anyone thought and happily said so, Pearl has spent much of his life trying to influence what people think, from being a jock with compassion to wearing his religious faith on his sleeve.

That contrast was clearest in the last few minutes of their respective welcome-to-town interviews, when the reporter asked each new coach how he and his family like their new home.

O’Neill answers, “I don’t care where I am as long as we’re winning. If we lose, we’ll go somewhere else.”

The question is posed again, with a hint: “Does your son like his new school?” A shrug.

“Do you like the trees and mountains?” Nothing. An opportunity to make polite compliments, but O’Neill won’t bite.

Asked the same questions, Pearl gushes. “We were surprised at how much we felt right at home. We feel very comfortable at Heska Amuna Synagogue. We feel welcome. Our kids have more friends than in four years at Milwaukee.”

His son, 6’5” Steven, likes West High, where he is playing on the basketball team and has a chance of being recruited by a Division I basketball school.

“He’s worked at it and really gotten better,” says a proud Dad.

Daughter Leah likes sixth grade at Bearden Middle. Son Michael likes fourth grade at Rocky Hill Elementary and Pilot football. Older daughter Jacqui, a sophomore at Wisconsin-Madison, is transferring to UT. “We’re a close family. We want to be together.”

Kim got the courses she needed in Wisconsin and recently took her nursing boards to become a nurse practitioner.

Hunger for Knowledge; Fear of Failure

At the Division II level, Pearl says there were so many excellent outside shooters that he had to learn to be a better teacher of man-to-man defense, and studied under the venerable Bob Huggins of Cincinnati, who was mentioned briefly for the UT job last March.

While at Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Pearl got to know and learn important hoops wisdom from the legendary George Karl, then the coach of the NBA Milwaukee Bucks. For example? “Help defense is overrated and don’t give away the threes,” says Pearl. In Milwaukee, Pearl also met and befriended a fellow Jew and former UT All-America Ernie Grunfeld, who was working in the Bucks front-office. Grunfeld later put in a good word to the UT Athletic department. That helped speed along the hiring process last March.

Pearl recently sat down for five hours with Pat Summitt talking Xs and Os. “What makes Pat the best college basketball coach, man or woman, is her hunger for knowledge. She thinks she doesn’t know it all, even though she does. She thinks, ‘Someday, I’m going to be a good coach.’”

So what keeps Pearl going? “Fear of failure,” he says. “I’m afraid to fail. Nobody likes to win more than I do. And Jewish guilt. I just can’t feel like I can do enough for my players. I feel inadequate as a coach, as a father, as a husband. I feel like I have 25 pounds of problems to fit in a 10-pound bag every day. There are so many people that I’ve got to work for. That’s why I have the team over to our house so much. My team is part of my family. I have the kids travel with me on the road sometimes. My job is such a big part of my life.”

Pearl took one cue from Summitt and gave his team the Performance Plus personality assessments. Summitt started using them a decade ago on the suggestion of Knoxville auto dealer Bill Rodgers, who found them helpful in motivating his staff to sell Cadillacs-every salesman’s motivation is different, and Rodgers wants to get the best out of each of them.

The assessments’ potential value on the basketball floor was brought home quickly to Summitt. She had been butting heads with her too-flashy point guard, Michelle Marciniak, when the Performance Plus results came back and gave them both a surprise-in many ways they were very much alike, especially in their intense desire to win. The insight helped them sort out their sources of friction and win the 1995 national title.

Jerry Green, who arrived in town just three years later, said he didn’t believe in such things-that an educator should know his players without the help of tests. Yeah, yeah. But in hindsight, Green could probably have benefited from any numbers of tools or gimmicks in sorting out the problems he faced in trying to turn unbridled point guard Tony Harris into a team leader, to mold super-talented Vincent Yarbrough into a polished player and to inculcate his team with the mental toughness and discipline to hang onto 10-point leads in the last five minutes of Sweet 16 ballgames.

The anti-Green, Pearl is eager to learn and to try anything to get an edge. He says he got mostly what he expected from the results of the Performance Plus tests, “with a few surprises.” For example? “One of my better players was not as confident as I would have assumed he was about getting criticism publicly. According to the test, he can handle all kinds of criticism privately, but he’d prefer it not be in front of others. So I’m careful about expressing that in front of his teammates.”

Pearl might have figured that out, or he might have burned a bridge to a player without knowing it. When you’ve got nine scholarship players, you can’t really afford to alienate any of them.

Pearl emphasizes strength and fitness. Playing an attacking game with limited numbers, they have to be fitter. “We’re bigger and stronger than we were last spring.”

He is known to work out with his team and reportedly bench-presses 300 pounds.

When Jemere Hendrix, who had earlier been charged with possession of marijuana and driving without a license, threw a punch at a football player at a party, Pearl threw him off the team and put wrong-man-in-the-wrong-place-at-the-wrong-time Andre Patterson, a senior forward, on probation.

“We’re going to have discipline in the program.”

Relentless Positivism

Pearl is working tirelessly to recruit the talent that will make the program successful in the long term. “I’ve taken two or three days off since April.” He’s already signed three of the top 50 prospects in the nation-Marques Johnson, a 6’6” forward from Ft. Wayne, Ind.; Wayne Chism, a 6’8” power forward from Bolivar, Tenn., and Duke Crews, a 6’7” forward from Hampton, Va. It’s worth noting that only one of those signees is from Tennessee. To compete at the national level, you’ve got to recruit at the national level.

Pearl is selling recruits on Tennessee. He tells recruits, and anyone else who will listen, that a team that lives up to the potential here can fill up that arena and beat Kentucky. “Nobody has greater potential in the SEC with the exception of Kentucky.” No excuses, just a positive vision of the possibilities. “We’ve beaten Kentucky 62 times. Vandy is next in the conference with 39.”

In a ticket-sales letter to the “UT Faithful” in the Nov. 2 News Sentinel, Pearl wrote, “Tennessee is the crown jewel of all universities, and my staff and I are thrilled to be a part of the UT tradition and heritage…I can promise you that my team will give their all every night on both ends of the floor. You will see players diving for loose balls, playing in-your-face defense, banging bodies for rebounds and leaving every ounce of energy on the hardwood. We will compete and compete hard!

“Someday soon, I envision a packed Thompson-Boling arena, similar to how things were

in the old days of Stokely. We will feed off the crowd's energy when C.J. [Watson] makes an incredible dish, hear the crowd roar when Major [Wingate] slam dunks or listen to a rain of 'threeeeeeeeees' when Chris [Lofton] hits one from downtown."

Pearl's relentless positivism extends to avoiding the news coverage: "I'm upset reading the papers because of the criticism of the football program. That hurts us in recruiting. Our competition tells recruits that the media [here] will be so critical of you when you lose. But when we win, it will be off the charts. Our following will rival Kentucky's."

Classy recruiting: Top 10 for Vols

Analysts impressed with Pearl's 'Fab Four'

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

November 11, 2005

Tennessee has its version of the Fab Four in the form of a top 10-ranked men's basketball recruiting class.

The Vols finished as the SEC's top-ranked recruiting class according to four of the five major basketball recruiting services. The class was unanimously ranked in the Sweet 16 of national recruiting.

Power forward Wayne Chism and combo guards Marques Johnson and Josh Tabb have submitted their national letters of intent. Duke Crews, the highest rated of the four players, is holding a press conference today in Hampton, Va., where he said he'll announce he's attending Tennessee.

"Everywhere you look, we're in the top 10 in our recruiting class," Crews said. "You can't compare us to the Fab Four this year, because we haven't played together yet. But it's going to be fun to play with these guys."

First-year UT coach Bruce Pearl attempted to qualify his enthusiasm for the recruiting class Thursday night.

"You've got to be careful in recruiting not to overstate things," Pearl said. "These are high school seniors. I don't put a whole lot into the rankings."

That said, Pearl made it clear he's thrilled with what he calls the most-talented class he has ever signed.

"These are the best players I've ever recruited," Pearl said. "But I have to (recruit well), I'm in the SEC now."

Pearl said his Sweet 16 run in the NCAA tournament with Wisconsin-Milwaukee last year helped him on the recruiting trail a great deal, but also, he said it's easier to recruit to a place like Tennessee.

"The difference? It's Phillip Fulmer, Pat Summit, history, tradition and the Vol Walk," he said.

Pearl also said it was associate head coach Tony Jones, who served as the primary recruiter for the three players who signed, as well as Crews.

"To go up against some of the traditional powers in college basketball and come away with the individuals we did, it speaks a lot for Bruce Pearl as a head coach and the members of our coaching staff," Jones said. "The thing these guys have in common is they are all high character and very competitive. They have steadfastly maintained they want to bring Tennessee's basketball program to the top of the SEC."

Jerry Meyer, an analyst with Rivals.com, said he was impressed with the Vols' class.

"Duke Crews and Wayne Chism are guys that I expect to play in the NBA one day," Meyer said on Rivals.com. "They will be ready for the rugged play in the SEC right away. ... Marques Johnson is also an intriguing prospect."

Pearl said he could sign another one or two players in the spring signing period.

As good as the players' rankings are, Pearl said he's most impressed with their character.

"That's the common denominator with all these kids, they're warriors," Pearl said. "It (toughness) is a word that's overused. In this game, toughness doesn't get built, you reveal it. You've got it or you don't. And these guys have got toughness."

Pearl said the newest Vols also have faith.

"I appreciate these guys because they've taken us at our word," Pearl said. "We don't have a track record at Tennessee, and yet they still believed; so I'm grateful, and Tennessee will reward these guys for their commitment."

Pearl proving a gem at filling up the seats

20,000-plus tickets sold for opening game

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

November 18, 2005

KNOXVILLE - Bruce Pearl has said it enough times that you can almost hear the echo throughout the corridors of Thompson-Boling Arena.

"When we win, they will come," he says.

The Tennessee men's basketball team has yet to win, but the fans are lining up to come. At least, for the time being.

The Vols will open the Pearl era tonight at 6:30 p.m. against East Tennessee State in Thompson-Boling Arena, and more than 20,000 tickets have already been sold.

The last time that many people showed up to watch the Vols play in a home opener was Nov. 25, 1991, when a crowd of 23,969 saw ETSU run away with an 87-79 victory.

For perspective, that was Wade Houston's third season in Knoxville. Three more coaches have come and gone since, paving the way for Pearl to take his shot at what has been a coaching graveyard.

"We've got to give people a reason to come watch us play," Pearl said. "Right now, it's going to have to be the way we play, how hard we play, how passionate we play, and we'll see if it's going to be how well we play."

Having yet to win a game, Pearl has done his part to get fans excited about Tennessee basketball again.

He's spoken to rotary groups and women's groups, chatted with students in dormitories and dining halls, wrestled with students in oversized sumo wrestling outfits and traveled tirelessly around the state.

"The word is out that our kids are going to play hard for 40 minutes," said Tennessee associate athletics director John Currie, who, along with AD Mike Hamilton, was involved in hiring Pearl.

"People are responding to his work ethic, enthusiasm, intensity and passion, and they want to sample it," Currie said.

The big black curtain hiding the empty seats at the top of Thompson-Boling Arena has become a staple in recent years at UT home games. Currie, though, said the curtains on both sides, as well as one end zone, had to be removed for this game so as to accommodate the number of people buying tickets.

Part of the interest is that ETSU will bring a big crowd.

This should be one of Murry Bartow's best teams. The Buccaneers, who routed Mars Hill 99-71 without suspended senior guard Tim Smith in their exhibition, were picked second in the Atlantic Sun.

Smith is back for tonight's game, and the Bucs are just the first step in what will be a demanding non-conference schedule for the Vols. Dates with Texas, Oklahoma State, Memphis and Murray State are still to come.

Pearl admits that he might have over-scheduled this year, but he's intent on playing the best. The players like the fact that so little is expected of this team.

The also say that Pearl's energy has been infectious.

"When he first got hired here and we were feeding off his energy, I was anxious to see if that continued," junior Dane Bradshaw said. "It's easy to do that the first couple of weeks with a new coach. I've just been amazed at how well everybody has bought into his whole concept.

"No matter what the success rate is, we're all going to stick with what he does, and we believe in him and this coaching staff."

Glad-handing Vols show appreciation

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

November 19, 2005

Thompson-Boling Arena has inspired a myriad of complaints over the years.

It's too big. It's too empty. It's too dead.

The parking stinks. All the good seats are taken by the fat cats who seldom show up. The students are apathetic. The ushers are surly. You just don't feel welcome.

Yada-yada.

Imagine a fan's surprise Friday night.

First, they watch Tennessee win a rip-roaring basketball season-opener, 106-83 over East Tennessee State.

Then, when they get up to leave, somebody's on the concourse shaking their hand, actually thanking them for coming.

And, get this, that somebody is Stanley Asumnu.

And Chris Lofton. And C.J. Watson. And Major Wingate, etc.

"Yeah, they were kind of surprised," said Asumnu. "That was a lot of fun."

The corny old line goes, Dane Bradshaw did this, did that, did everything. He even sold popcorn at halftime.

Bradshaw did not, in fact, sell popcorn at halftime. But he did score a career-high 13 points, rustle up a career-high 12 rebounds and then rush up into the stands after the final horn and thank the fans for coming out to support the team.

"I think they really appreciated it," Bradshaw said. "And scoring over a hundred points and really playing hard, that will keep them coming back."

On opening night of the Bruce Pearl era, the paid attendance was 21,280. Actual fannies in the seats? Probably between 16,000 and 18,000.

UT gave away or made available at discount several thousand tickets. Good for them.

That put bodies in the nosebleed seats. Down courtside, the stand-and-deliver student section at the end zone by the UT bench was full and stayed busy to the end.

One of the students was none other than Jemere Hendrix, the senior dismissed from the squad for running afoul of team rules.

Hendrix didn't slink into civilian status. He stood tall behind the cheerleaders holding up a white t-shirt with an inscription:

"I'm sorry team, I'm sorry fans, I'm sorry Coach Pearl, I'm sorry Mike Hamilton. I am my brother's keeper."

On the back: "Please forgive me."

That was only one of the unusual sights on Pearl's official opening night.

Bradshaw's double-double was another. The 6-foot-3 junior guard isn't in over his head

playing forward in Pearl's system.

On the contrary, he's thriving in it.

"We don't have a lot of depth," Bradshaw said, "so everybody needs to be on top of their game."

And what about Asumnu's box score?

A career-high 18 points on 8-of-11 shooting. He put up better numbers on Pearl's first night than he did on any of his 83 nights under coach Buzz Peterson.

"This is me," said Asumnu, as if that was all the explanation necessary.

"The (past) couple of years I was here, that wasn't me," he added. "You all didn't get a chance to see who I really am and what I'm capable of doing."

If Asumnu is capable of doing this more often, if Bradshaw continues to thrive, perhaps the Vols won't be as overmatched as predicted in Pearl's maiden voyage.

"I like having those guys out there," said Pearl.

"What a wonderful night for Stanley. He and (Bradshaw) are such good kids to root for. Everybody in the building is happy to see them out there, playing and shooting and being a big part of the team."

Finally, there was no stranger sight than the last one. Players and coaches dashing off the court, up the stairs to the concourse.

"When I saw the numbers (tickets sold) this afternoon," said Pearl, "I told my wife, win or lose, we need to do this."

Winning made it easier.

"I was just shaking as many hands as I could," Asumnu said, "telling them thank you for coming out. We need you, day in and day out. Bring a friend.

"We want it to be like this every night."

It won't be. Not every night. But as starting points go, no complaints.

Pearl era begins with gem of a win

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

November 19, 2005

KNOXVILLE - At the very least, Bruce Pearl has promised that his Tennessee men's basketball team will be fun to watch this season.

Last night, the Vols were also pretty good.

A crowd of 21,280 watched Tennessee open the Pearl era in style with a 106-83 shellacking of East Tennessee State in what was almost a surreal setting at traditionally stale Thompson-Boling Arena.

"It was a fun game to play in with the crowd and all the hype about Coach Pearl and us being able to go out and show people what we're about, that his system works and that we can get it done in his system," senior point guard C.J. Watson said.

Afterward, Pearl and the players went up into the concourse to shake hands with fans and personally thank them for coming.

"I think they had a good time in the house (last night)," Pearl said. "The band was great. The student section stood the whole time and was into the game.

"I think (fans) are hopeful. We're going to be challenged this year. We've got to continue to get better."

East Tennessee State was determined to run, and Tennessee was more than glad to oblige.

The Vols forced the Buccaneers into 33 turnovers, while collecting 25 assists and 15 steals. Counting the last exhibition against Carson-Newman, Tennessee has 57 assists in its last two games.

All five starters scored in double figures, led by sophomore guard Chris Lofton with 24 points. He was 6-of-12 from 3-point range, and the Vols' spacing and ball movement led to open looks for Lofton.

The Vols also made a living in transition, often times triggering the fast break on the defensive end.

Perhaps the signature play of the night came when JaJuan Smith was able to out-scrap an ETSU player for a loose ball. He found himself on the seat of his pants, but was still able to bounce the ball through traffic to a cutting Stanley Asumnu for a layup.

The crowd, the fourth largest for a home opener in school history, went crazy. Smith even traded high-fives with UT Board of Trustees member Jim Haslam.

"We want it to be like that every night," Asumnu said. "We want it to be where we can get 20,000 in here every night for every game regardless of who we play. In order for us to do that, we've got to win games and keep doing what we're doing right now."

Asumnu, for the second consecutive game, was the picture of efficiency. He had a career-high 18 points and only one turnover in 21 minutes despite battling cramps. In the exhibition win over Carson-Newman, he had 19 points in 20 minutes and didn't commit a turnover.

Dane Bradshaw, a 6-foot-4 junior, also continues to flourish at the power forward position against bigger players.

He recorded his first career double-double with career highs in points (12) and rebounds (13). His six assists were also a career high.

Watson added 24 points, while junior center Major Wingate had 11.

"This is a team that will make the extra pass, and it needs to because we don't have a lot of breakdown guys," Pearl said. n

"We don't have a lot of guys who make plays, so we have to get each other good shots."

The Buccaneers (0-1) were never in the game, even though senior guard Tim Smith scored 10 unanswered points midway through the second half to get his club back within 14 points.

Pearl chose not to call a timeout, though, and the Vols reeled off 11 unanswered points of their own to put the game away.

"There was a time when they were really running," Pearl said. "I tell my guys, 'When you're tired, that's when we have them. … When you're exhausted, smile because we've got them.'

"I didn't want to call timeout and give them a chance to rest."

The Vols (1-0) will return to action Tuesday at home when they face Louisiana-Lafayette.

Asumnu gains renewed energy from Pearl

by John Brice, Maryville *The Daily Times*

November 22, 2005

KNOXVILLE -- It was the Stanley Asumnu everyone had waited to see. His arrival just happened to be four years late.

Tennessee's senior forward -- expected to make an immediate impact when he signed with the Vols four years ago -- exploded for a career-high 18 points Friday night in a 106-83 win against ETSU. The Vols (1-0) host Louisiana-Lafayette (0-1) in Thompson-Boling Arena tonight at 7:30.

For Asumnu, the outing was a chance to finally feel comfortable after languishing for three years under former coach Buzz Peterson.

``This is my game. What you're seeing now is how I'm used to playing," said the 6-foot-5 Houston native. ``Coach (Bruce) Pearl brings so much energy to practice and now everybody looks forward to it."

It doesn't hurt that practice serves as the conditioning period -- no extra running is required once drills are concluded. That's because Pearl deploys an in-your-face, uptempo style of play. And the Vols made it work in their opener, harassing ETSU into more than 30 turnovers and repeatedly scoring in transition.

``We did some impressive things," said Pearl, ``like forcing 33 turnovers, but we need to get better."

Tennessee also placed five players in double figures against the Bucs. Sophomore guard Chris Lofton led all scorers with 24, C.J. Watson added 22, and Major Wingate contributed 11.

Guard-turned-forward Dane Bradshaw generated his first career double-double with 13 points and a team-high 12 rebounds. Pearl says Bradshaw has learned to use his 6-foot-4 frame to his advantage.

``When you are smaller, like Dane, you must find ways to use your body. You must get inside your opponents because you can't reach over them," said the former Wisconsin-Milwaukee coach. ``Your best inside players are guys that learned how to use their bodies and then did their growing. Guys who have always been tall sometimes don't know how to use their bodies and position themselves.

``Dane is an example of an overachieving guy, somebody fans like to cheer for because they know that what they see is what they get."

What the Vols will get tonight from the Ragin' Cajuns is a much taller challenge. Lafayette has only one starter listed below 6-foot-7. Conversely, the Vols have only one starter, Wingate, taller than 6-5.

``They are huge -- as much size as anybody we will play," Pearl said. ``They are very physical. They lost a tough game to Southern Illinois and will come in here as Ragin' Cajuns, especially with Major Wingate doubtful."

UT's Patterson: Physical assets will carry him far

by John Brice, Maryville *The Daily Times*

November 25-2005

KNOXVILLE -- Oftentimes opponents never see it coming, and that's exactly what Andre Patterson likes.

Tennessee's senior forward shrugs off the notion that his wiry 6-foot-7 frame is a hindrance. In fact, Patterson believes his body affords him the opportunity to do things other, larger big men can not.

``I think my size is an advantage on offense. On defense, I give up a little bit on size and strength-wise, but my quickness can let me get around and help a lot," said Patterson, whose 21 points Tuesday night paced the Vols' 83-76 win against Louisiana-Lafayette. ``And my lift, I think it helps me a lot in the post because I can block shots from behind. I'll be loving blocking those shots."

Patterson had three swats against Lafayette and will get a chance for more tonight when the Vols host Eastern Kentucky (1-2). Tip at Thompson-Boling Arena is 7:30.

``Andre did not play well (in Tennessee's 106-83 win) against East Tennessee State," said first-year coach Bruce Pearl. ``He was anxious to perform and step up. He showed me some game."

Though Patterson, guard-turned-forward Dane Bradshaw, who's 6-foot-4, and 6-10 center Major Wingate hardly comprise an intimidating frontline, Tennessee's style of play can be an equalizer. Pearl has unleashed a frenetic, fast-paced, 94-foot attacking system.

``I'm not ever worried about size; I'm always giving up size, me and Dane," said the Los

Angeles native, who transferred to Tennessee from UCLA two years ago. ``We just have a lot of heart I think. The team is showing a lot more character.

``We always felt that we needed to be more aggressive, and Coach Pearl came in and put that aggressive style in us and it's been working for us."

While other teams wear down, Patterson says, the Vols stay strong. Though Lafayette turned a 21-point deficit into a one-point advantage in the second half, Patterson witnessed the Ragin' Cajuns' fatigue down the stretch.

``That's where we want to get them at; when they're tired and we're tired, we feel like we're the better conditioned team," he said. ``I like that about Coach (Pearl). I like it.

``On defense, they couldn't close out on us too well. You could tell, you could see how they were holding their knees and we were still cutting hard."

Several weeks back, Patterson's only cut was nearly one from the team. Along with teammate Jemere Hendrix, he was involved in an altercation on campus with Vol linebacker Daniel Brooks. Phillip Fulmer kicked Brooks off the football team, and Pearl did the same to Hendrix.

Patterson was slapped with an indefinite suspension, which was lifted just prior the Vols' second exhibition contest.

Now, Pearl envisions Patterson's role in the offense becoming even greater.

``Andre has great hands, good moves and he's quick," Pearl said. ``His size is an advantage offensively because he can get around (bigger players). We're trying to get him the ball late. The fact is he's a good shooter, and Andre has been there and done that."

Playing for his third college coach in four years, Patterson doesn't want to rush anything in his final collegiate season.

``We just have to take it one game at a time this year, and things will be all right," Patterson said. ``Now, I've got a coach who wants me to be aggressive, and it kind of feels good."

COLONEL WATCH: Pearl uses a football comparison to describe Eastern Kentucky, coached by former West Virginia assistant Jeff Neubauer.

``They are well-coached and come from a system out of West Virginia that is dynamic," Pearl said. ``The way they spread the floor, the way they back cut, the way they shoot threes and run, it's a Steve Spurrier-type offense."

Wingate grits his teeth for teammates

Rob Lewis, VolQuest.com

November 24, 2005

Tennessee has seen itself get off to a solid 2-0 start on the young basketball season, after an easy opening night win over ETSU and Tuesday's 83-76 victory over a scrappy Louisiana-Lafayette team that clawed its way back from a 20-point second-half deficit in Knoxville. That put a scare into the Vols and Bruce Pearl, but surviving such a scare unscathed should give them some confidence that could come in handy down the road.

Pearl's squad saw a 21-point lead evaporate in the last 15 minutes of Tuesday's game, falling behind by one with five minutes left. It looked like a prime moment for a thin team with a new coach to fold up, but it didn't happen that way.

Certainly, sucking it up and pulling one out that you should have nailed down already against a team like Louisiana-Lafayette at home in November isn't exactly the equivalent of doing it on the road in the SEC against good competition, but it's a start. And no matter what the level of competition, that kind of success can be healthy for a team looking to find itself.

"I think we have some confidence that we're going to win close ones. I don't know how to say it, but in the huddle late the other night, coach Pearl just told us, 'we win close games, don't worry about anything in the past, we win close games,' and right after that we got on top of them," Dane Bradshaw said of the experience.

"Teams are going to make a run on you. We did a better job of resisting that run against ETSU than in the last game. It's something that we're just going to have to work on, and I think that our conditioning will get better and we'll be able to use that to our advantage more and more."

Tennessee closed with an 18-10 run following Pearl's time out with 5:01 to play against Louisiana-Lafayette.

The Vols also got a very large boost in the game from the presence of junior center Major Wingate on the floor. Wingate took a bad tumble in practice on Sunday and suffered a bruise that the coaching staff feared at first was a broken bone. X-Rays on Monday proved negative, but he was still in a lot of pain and was still on crutches Tuesday afternoon.

On Monday, it was pretty clear that Pearl didn't expect Wingate to play in the game, and wasn't exactly looking forward to playing the without him. Louisiana-Lafayette's size across the front line was a huge concern for the Vols going into the game, and would have been even more of an issue without Wingate.

He ended up playing 28 big minutes in the game, scoring 12 points, grabbing three rebounds and blocking three shots. Appropriately because of the season, Wingate gave thanks to the Vols' training staff for helping to get him ready.

"I'm thankful for our trainer (Chad Newman), I slept in the locker room the last few nights giving myself treatment and he's been coming in early, helping me, telling me what to do. They really didn't think I was going to be playing," Wingate said. "It was hurting pretty bad. I was real close to just asking Chad to give me some injections, but I knew he wouldn't do it. I really wanted to play though. He told me what I needed to do. I stayed in the locker room for three days getting treatment, stayed up to like 3:00 a.m., using ice, cold whirlpools, different machines, whatever I could do to get back.

"Me and coach talked about it, and he didn't want me to play. I practically begged him to play. I think it was a big thing for the team to see me back on the court, to get hurt on Sunday and play on Tuesday. Everybody knew how bad I was hurting with bone spurs and the bruised bone in my foot. To see me fight through it in the game, I think it picked us up some."

Pearl has made it a point to place a great deal of responsibility on Wingate since his arrival, pushing him hard on and off the court, and it's been apparent from Wingate's comments since practice started that he's responded to that demanding approach. If the Vols are going to compete against good teams, Wingate is going to have to show up on a consistent basis, and Pearl's hasn't tried to shield him from those burdens.

It seems like those high expectations, and Wingate's desire to live up to them, played a large role in his pushing himself to get ready on Tuesday.

"I don't think I would have took it as serious last year. It's just that I really didn't want to let my team down, and more than that I didn't want to let coach Pearl down," Wingate said. "This year, I wanted to be out there more than anything, just because coach has my back no matter what. He understands all the stuff that I've been through good and bad, I talk to him more than anybody. It was just real big for me to be out there."

It was also real big for Tennessee to regroup and win a game that it appeared to have well in hand. Wingate said he had some uncomfortable flashbacks during the second half of the game as the visitors whittled away at a big lead. The margin for error for these Vols is slim, and Wingate knows they have to finish teams when they have a chance.

"I'm happy (with where we are) but last night I felt like I saw a lot of us from last year with giving up that big lead," Wingate said. "I got that image of us throwing games away from last year. I talked to the team about that last night, and we can't afford to do that. Everybody has a lot of faith in coach Pearl and us winning close games, but we can't give up leads like that. I'm sure that we'll be running because of it."

Tennessee will be back on the court Friday night against Eastern Kentucky. Tip-off for the game is 7:30.

Same old Vols? Nope, they're tireless, tough

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

December 1, 2005

NASHVILLE -- Following Tennessee basketball is a radio or TV proposition for most Big Orange fans in Middle Tennessee.

Driving to Thompson-Boling Arena, especially on a week night for a non-conference game, doesn't enter into the equation.

Wednesday night, several thousand Vol fans were appreciative to have to drive no farther than the Gaylord Entertainment Center.

Their motivation was to witness this exciting new Bruce Pearl era they've been hearing about.

And here's what most of them had to be thinking at halftime:

What the heck is all the fuss about?

To paraphrase The Who, new Vols same as the old Vols.

The scoreboard said Murray State 32, Tennessee 26.

The box score showed Chris Lofton and C.J. Watson a combined 1-of-10 from the field.

It showed Major Wingate had one rebound in 15 minutes.

The crowd saw Watson, among others, forcing shots.

"We just couldn't get into our offense," Watson said later. "I couldn't get any open looks."

The crowd saw one launch from the hands of JaJuan Smith that was difficult to categorize for the box score. It could have been an airball 3-pointer, but maybe it was a daring feed to Wingate near the basket.

The crowd watched the Vols ignore some little freshman from Murray State, Tyler Holloway, who came off the bench and scored 11 points on 4-of-4 shooting.

"He was a no-leave guy," Pearl said after the game. "We didn't pay very close attention to the scouting report."

Yep. New Vols, same as the old Vols.

If anyone left at halftime to head across town and catch the second half of the Oregon-Vanderbilt game, they had to be wondering why Tennessee bothered with an offseason coaching change.

If, however, they stuck around for the second half at the Gaylord, they saw exactly why Tennessee made a coaching change.

The Vols spotted Murray State a nine-point lead in the opening exchange of the second half, but then, first gradually, and then in a landslide, momentum shifted in Tennessee's favor.

The Vols would pull away to win 64-53. They would close out the victory as confidently and impressively as Duke might do to Maryland or Arizona to Stanford.

Maybe a 64-53 win (over anybody) wasn't what Vol fans expected when Pearl came swaggering into town from Milwaukee with his full-court tempo. But don't feel misled. This was a keeper win.

"We're not going to play good every game," said Lofton, a sophomore. "We're not going

to get to play our style every game."

The Vols played plenty good in the second half.

They outrebounded Murray State 26-15. They committed a mere three turnovers. They warmed up from 28 percent in the first half to shoot 44 percent.

Lofton and Watson were a combined 10-of-13 from the field.

Murray State's starting guards, by contrast, were 1-of-13. And little Holloway was a non-factor, 0-of-2.

The Vols pressed selectively, but effectively.

"We pressed just enough," said Pearl, "to take your legs out.

"Those same shots they were making the first half, they were missing the second half."

Racers coach Mick Cronin, whose team had earlier lost at Cincinnati in overtime, offered an amen.

"Tonight," said Cronin, "we had a chance to win and really ran out of gas the last six minutes.

"If you want to beat big-time teams, you need to be in as good or better condition than them."

Tennessee might not be a big-time team yet. This is still very much a work in progress.

But by displaying characteristics such as tireless legs, toughness and discipline down the stretch, the Vols not only won a game they could have easily lost, they won over some fans in Middle Tennessee.

Vols are showing more confidence

Conditioning key in last 10 minutes

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

December 1, 2005

When Louisiana-Lafayette erased a 21-point Tennessee lead last week, Coach Bruce Pearl saw the fear in his players' eyes.

He saw only confidence last night as the Vols shook off the first-half doldrums and sprinted past leg-weary Murray State for a 64-53 victory at Gaylord Entertainment Center.

"I didn't see any of those faces (last night)," Pearl said. "They looked really good the whole way through. I don't think they doubted that they were going to be able to win that game.

"We didn't panic."

The Vols (4-0) credited their conditioning for being able to take charge in the final 10 minutes.

"A lot of teams we play, they're like, 'Let's get out of the first half,' " senior forward Andre Patterson said. "We like that. Come the second half, it's the same thing.

"Conditioning-wise, man … we ran that hill so many times this summer."

Closing games was anything but Tennessee's specialty last season. In fact, they seemed to find ways to lose games in the final minutes.

Pearl thinks this team is starting to believe.

"Right now, it's about finding ways to win," Pearl said. "You win the games you can win. As a coach, that's what I've got to get this team to do.

"We've played against several teams that were good enough to beat us, and we're finding ways to win."

Sophomore guard Chris Lofton, who scored 12 straight points to lead the Vols' clinching surge, said it was pleasing to win when the running game wasn't in full gear.

"We're not going to play well every game, and we're not going to get to play our style every game," Lofton said. "We have to learn to run the half-court offense and play half-court defense to be successful, and I think we showed that (last night)."

The Vols held Murray State leading scorer Trey Pearson to eight points on 3-of-11 shooting from the field. C.J. Watson, JaJuan Smith and Lofton all took turns on Pearson.

"Our goal was to shut him down," said Watson, who had 11 points, seven assists and one turnover in 32 minutes. "He was their main player, and we also wanted to make him work on defense."

Murray State Coach Mick Cronin said his club simply couldn't keep up down the stretch.

"We had a chance to win and really ran out of gas the last six minutes," Cronin said. "I'm disappointed that we ran out of gas."

Back in Nashville: The Vols will return to Gaylord Entertainment Center next season for another neutral-site game.

Oklahoma State will come here in December 2006 as the return game for Tennessee's visit to Oklahoma City later this month to take on the Cowboys in the All-College Classic. Right now, it's scheduled for a Monday night.

"We are Tennessee's team," Pearl said.

"This is Big Orange Country, and we are coming back."

Watson silences critics

Guard is quietly off to best start for Vols

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

December 14, 2005

KNOXVILLE — To characterize C.J. Watson as verbose would be like characterizing Oprah Winfrey as needy.

The "Quiet Storm" nickname says all you need to know about Watson.

"He's never going to be one to do a lot of talking and hollering, but he knows what he needs to do and knows what everybody else needs to do," Tennessee junior center Major Wingate said. "He's one of the smartest players I've ever played with."

Watson, Tennessee's senior point guard, is off to the best start of his career, and the Vols have benefited with a 5-0 start.

He's averaging 17 points and 5.6 assists, while shooting 55.8 percent from the field and 61.9 percent from 3-point range. He was also named SEC Player of the Week yesterday.

Ask him if he's the best point guard in the Southeastern Conference, and Watson will give you a very matter of fact, "Yeah, I think I am."

But he's also smart enough to realize that the question is moot at this point.

Ask him again in March.

"Coach (Bruce) Pearl keeps telling me that the team will go as far as I will take them," Watson said. "I was too hesitant at times in the past.

"This year, I'm going to be more aggressive and try to take charge in games. I know a lot of the games are going to be on my shoulders."

The 6-foot-2 Watson will get his best test yet this Saturday against No. 6-ranked Texas. His counterpart, Longhorns sophomore point guard Daniel Gibson, was one of 50 preseason candidates for the Wooden Award.

As a freshman, Gibson carried Texas after forward P.J. Tucker was lost to academics and center LaMarcus Aldridge went down with a hip injury.

"I go out and play hard every game," said Watson, only the third Vol (joining Allan Houston and Tony Harris) to have 1,000 points and 400 assists in his career. "But when you go up against the good point guards, you want to out-compete them and win the game.

"I'll try to shut him down on the offensive end and go from there."

Former Tennessee Coach Buzz Peterson was constantly on Watson to take on more of a leadership role, and he even enrolled him in leadership courses.

Pearl, too, would like to see Watson be more demonstrative with his teammates, but he'll settle for the bottom line.

"I think he's taken a better leadership role with the team, just by leading by example," Pearl said. "But I told C.J., 'Look, go be the best point guard in the SEC. Don't be our leader.' I don't believe you try to have someone be something they aren't. That's not what he's built for.

"I want him to be the best point guard in the SEC, the best point guard against Texas. He doesn't have to lead. I'll lead. Dane (Bradshaw) will lead. Major (Wingate) will lead. Other guys can lead. But go be better than Daniel Gibson. That's more important to me."

The two biggest differences in Watson's game this season are that he's shooting a much-higher percentage from the field and that he's stepping up in pivotal situations.

"He just knows when it's his time," Pearl said. "I think the fact that his shooting percentage is up has to do with his being patient throughout the game, and yet assertive when it counts."

Watson has never shot higher than 42.6 percent from the field during his career. He shot 41 percent last season.

Pearl is committed to playing him fewer minutes this season with the thought of having him fresher for the final stretches of games. Watson is averaging 31.6 minutes. He averaged 34.9 last season.

"He's going to have to take shots," Pearl said.

"So much of what we've done is positioning him to make those plays with our substituting all the way through. (Associate head coach) Tony Jones has made sure he's not worn out, so that late in the game he can take over."

It doesn't hurt, either, that Watson has Chris Lofton on one wing.

Lofton's ability to fire in four or five 3-pointers in a row makes the Watson-Lofton tandem a tough cover for anybody, especially with Watson taking on more of a scorer's mentality.

"C.J. has made it known that he's the go-to guy on the team right now," Wingate said. "Everybody thinks it's C-Lo. But I think C.J. is the biggest key on our team on offense and defense because we ask him to do so much."

Just don't ask him to talk about it.

Young big Vol intense

Coach Pearl sees kinship in 6-9 freshman Childress

By Gentry Estes, *Chattanooga Times-Free Press*
December 16, 2005

KNOXVILLE — The practice was the hard-fought, emotional variety, meant to reveal more what a player has inside than out.

With No. 6 Texas looming on Saturday, basketball workouts have been that way lately at Tennessee. Coach Bruce Pearl seems to mean it, and he's challenging guys personally between live plays.

Just who could match the excitable coach's fiery intensity ? On this particular Monday afternoon, as usual, big freshman Ryan Childress is dangerously close.

He's all out. He's punctuating rebounds with grunts. He's lunging for balls. He's playing well, and he's raising the stakes by letting others know about it.

So it's little surprise when a rough exchange under the basket leaves 6-foot-10 center Major Wingate with two points and Childress leaping from the hardwood, woofing about the charge he just took.

Coaches call it a flop. Lost in the moment, Childress disagrees.

By then, Pearl had heard enough to order Childress off the court with a clear warning : "I like the enthusiasm, but you're not going to talk that stuff to me."

Meanwhile, Wingate and teammates shared a knowing glance and smile. It was nothing they hadn't seen before.

"The type of player (Ryan) is, he's just cocky no matter what, and Coach is cocky," Wingate said with a laugh. "They bump heads all the time. It's more funny than anything. They'll get in it probably every other night."

After practice, Childress sheepishly approached Pearl, saying those words weren't directed at him. Pearl calmly explained that he can't have anyone — especially a player — come at him like that, if for no other reason than Childress needs to learn he can't do it to a real referee.

They touched fists. Everything was good, and Childress could take it in stride.

"It's something you want to get used to," he said. "You want Coach on you, pushing you, because if he's not, then you have to start wondering."

Truth is, Pearl really didn't mind Childress' outburst too much, commenting afterward he "had a good practice." After all, attitude is why he brought the Cincinnati native to Tennessee in the first place.

"His dad played football at Cincinnati," Pearl said. "His grandfather played tight end for Ohio State and Woody Hayes. They don't come any tougher.

"And Ryan is pretty stubborn. He's pretty hard-headed. From that standpoint, he can be challenging to coach."

There's a fine line of playing hard and playing recklessly. Like most freshmen, Childress sometimes crosses it.

The term "enforcer" may not be the best description of his game, but he'll never be a fancy player. Averaging around seven minutes through five games, Childress at times has evoked hockey as much as basketball.

Clearly feeling his way through two positions in Pearl's system, the 6-9 Childress has nearly as many fouls (eight) as rebounds (nine) and points (10). But he isn't afraid of contact, something Tennessee needs on a front line limited to only three rotation players 6-7 or taller.

"Things are going to get a whole lot harder," Wingate said. "We're just shoving a lot on him and hoping he picks it all up by the time SEC play starts."

A few months removed from home and a lengthy recruiting process that saw him commit twice to play for Pearl, Childress is growing comfortable.

"It's worked out great," Childress said. "If you would have told me last year I was going to have the opportunity to play 10 minutes (per game) in the SEC as a freshman, I would have been ecstatic about it."

Childress wanted to play for Pearl at Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which impressed him during a run to last season's NCAA Sweet 16. But he didn't want to go there once Pearl departed for Tennessee after last season. So he waited, hoping a route would open to Knoxville.

For 45 days, Pearl hesitated to chase Childress, afraid to steal a potential recruit from his old school. But once previous Volunteers commitments fell through, Pearl acted on the advice of his wife Kim.

"I was looking for a power forward, and I wasn't recruiting him out of respect to Milwaukee," Pearl said. "My wife finally said, 'Bruce, he's not going to Milwaukee. You're not hurting Milwaukee. You're going to hurt yourself.'" Childress had interest from several mid-major programs, but he was unsure why he'd gotten the silent treatment from Pearl. When the call finally came, he headed south the next morning.

"All of a sudden, I'm in a whirlwind," Childress said. "Next thing I know, I've got a scholarship. It was really a nobrainer. I was going with the coaches I'd bought into."

Though he came into Tennessee as one of Pearl's guys on a team full of inherited talent, Childress gets no perks. If anything, Pearl expects more of Childress, the way a coaching father might be tougher on his son.

"He brought me here for a reason, and I know right now I've got to pick up my play," Childress said. "I've been struggling in a freshman adjustment. Call it what you want to call it, but I'm really trying to get it going now."

He isn't yet accustomed to the speed of the game at this level. He tends to grab when his feet are slow to trail on defense. His practice fouls are harder, like a haphazard scrimmage slap that caught shooting teammate Stanley Asumnu across the face.

"That's something that you try and harness," associate head coach Tony Jones said.

"But that just goes along with the territory. You never want to take the fight out of the dog."

Bruce Almighty

Pearl has brought excitement back toVols hoops

By Gentry Estes, *Chattanooga Times-Free Press*
December 29, 2005

KNOXVILLE — Nearly two thousand lined up outside in the cold.

Hurrying to wait, shivering fans clustered around astonished ticket booth vendors Tuesday night for one last chance to see the University of Tennessee men's basketball team take on … Kentucky? Florida?

Nope, Alabama A&M.

"We came out for warm-ups the second time and saw how many people were out there," forward Stanley Asumnu said. "We couldn't believe it."

Two days after Christmas, on a nearly deserted campus, close to 16,000 people packed into Thompson-Boling Arena to watch Tennessee whip a lessthan-mid-major by 25 points.

The cavernous arena — long considered far too large to create much of a home-court atmosphere, in spite of its size — was rocking on this night. Standing ovations were plentiful, but never louder than when starting lineup announcements built to a crescendo with the introduction of first-year head coach Bruce Pearl.

From his seat in the lower level, Mike Hamilton grinned.

"Credit Bruce with bringing excitement back to the program," Tennessee's athletic director said. "East Tennesseans are people that appreciate good work ethic, blue-collar work ethic. And this team has that."

They're rediscovering men's basketball at Tennessee these days, thanks to the program's new direction and new up-tempo style. Tuesday night's 93-68 victory over Alabama A&M was the latest step in a 7-1 start that has a resurgent Volunteers bandwagon rolling in the direction of the NCAA tournament.

Fans are flocking to climb on board, and it's not hard to see why.

The Vols play unpredictable, wide-open and fast. They are both scoring and allowing the most points of any team in the Southeastern Conference.

In the time it takes to read this sentence, Tennessee's team will race down the floor and hoist another shot. Or get a steal. Or block a shot.

Or make something else happen, anything other than just standing there.

"They're really fun to watch," Hamilton said. "Bruce has done a great job of getting that extra effort, that little bit out of every player. I can look out on the court, and in every player I see some way they've gotten better."

Hamilton sent Buzz Peterson packing last spring and hired Pearl, a successful, experienced lower-tier head coach whose entertaining squads had developed a reputation as overachievers.

Tennessee men's basketball, in turn, was branded as underachieving, falling short of the NCAA tournament in the last four seasons. The team wasn't winning, and empty seats reflected it.

Under Hamilton's direction, the program's entire support team was evaluated after last season, not just coaches and players.

Why wasn't it working? And as Hamilton said, what will it take for "it to become the thing to do again?" "You've got to fight for attention," said Chris Fuller, head of marketing for UT athletics. "In some respects, from the marketing side, I don't think we were aggressive enough in doing things that let people know what kind of value we had in Tennessee basketball."

Hamilton, whose department has hurt for funds of late, still found the cash to hire Asen Marketing & Advertising, a Knoxville public relations firm brought in specifically for the men's basketball program.

"It's given us the ability to react quickly with direct mail pieces, react quickly with print ads," Fuller said. "Very quickly you're going to see us roll out professionally produced television commercials and radio spots.

"It was being done. It just wasn't as cohesive as what we're going to be doing now."

Amid an athletic department financially invested in stepping up basketball, the marketable Pearl fit in perfectly. As majorcollege coaches go, Pearl is remarkably comfortable playing politician — shaking hands, kissing babies and stumping around the state during the offseason for support.

He spoke to student groups, boosters, fan clubs, anyone and everyone who would come watch his team play.

Pearl typically used the term "building," rather than "rebuilding." "In trying to build a program, it takes a village, right?" Pearl said. "I can't even begin to tell you how many people are working at it."

And so far, it has worked better than they could have imagined.

After a season opener with more than 20,000 people in attendance, Pearl directed his team into the concourse to personally thank fans.

It's that sort of touch that resounds among a fan base eager to embrace this project.

Experienced insiders admit there's a buzz to the program that simply wasn't there before.

Sure, wins are part of it. So is a bowl-less football season that created ideal timing to unleash Pearl-ball on the Vols masses.

"The timing has been great," Fuller said. "There's no question we've gotten a little more media attention because we're not talking about a bowl game.

"You hurt on that side of the equation, but the bright side is we've been able to get a real jump start on basketball."

Watson has a clue about free-throw shooting

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

December 30, 2005

Thursday was "almost" night for C.J. Watson.

Tennessee's senior guard dribbled up to the brink of not one but two milestones in a ho-hum 69-58 victory over Lipscomb.

He didn't break through on either. On one front, a 21-year-old record likely will stand for a while yet.

On the other, it was only a postponement, probably until the next game.

There wasn't much artistic about UT's performance Thursday night, but anyone from James Naismith to LeBron James would have to give a bow to Watson's performance at the free-throw line.

He hit his first 11 attempts of the game. His 12th, with 97 seconds left, kicked off.

Watson hit two more to finish 13-of-14.

The school record for best percentage in a game is 14-of-14, set in 1985 by none other than Anthony "Slim Dog" Richardson. That's right, Anthony Richardson.

Predictably, Watson didn't have a picture of Richardson taped to his locker.

"I was just trying to make my free throws, just to get us a victory," Watson said.

A practical mission, that. If Watson starts clunking free throws, UT coach Bruce Pearl doesn't want to think about how the final minutes might have played out.

It was a 61-54 game with 2 1/2 minutes to play.

Watson was a career 73 percent free-throw shooter prior to Pearl's arrival. This year, he's heated up to an SEC-leading 89.5 percent, 51-of-57.

"Just more practice, more repetition," Watson said. "Doing little things that coach tells me to do."

"C.J.," said Pearl, "has been the most productive player in the SEC, based on shooting percentages: field-goal percentage, 3-point percentage and free-throw percentage.

"Kobe Bryant scores a lot of points, but he was 13-of-37 the other night.

"C.J. scores 18 (against Lipscomb) and takes eight shots."

And made only two. He was 1-of-6 from 3-point range, which dipped his percentage below 50 for the first time this year.

But scoring has never been the first thing Watson looks at when the box scores are passed around the locker room.

"Assist-to-turnover ratio," he said.

"Tonight, it wasn't that good. Me and the managers always have a little bet about it but tonight they won."

They don't win many.

At the opening tip Thursday, Watson had scored 1,096 points in his career and had handed out 497 assists.

Getting to 500 seemed a cinch.

Only twice in his 98-game career has Watson walked off the court with a goose egg in his assist column. One was the 2004 NIT loss to George Mason, the other last season at Auburn.

Twice in his three years he has led the SEC in assists in conference games.

He will undoubtedly finish as UT's No. 2 all-time assist man behind Johnny Darden, the floor general during the Ernie & Bernie Show of the 1970s.

But this night, Watson was without an assist in the first half and deep into the second.

Finally, with 6:34 to play, Watson's feed inside to Ryan Childress produced a basket. Assist No. 498.

No. 499 seemed imminent on a feed to Stanley Asumnu, but Asumnu's point-blank shot in traffic came off the rim.

Then Watson whipped a pass to JaJuan Smith in the corner but Smith's open trey rimmed out.

So Watson is stuck at 498 until next week.

An exclusive club awaits him. Only eight players in SEC history - well, since they started keeping assist records in the early 1970s - have 1,000 points and 500 assists.

Scanning the list, Watson recognized three: Tony Harris, Kareem Reid and Torris Bright.

The others are Terry Coner of Alabama, Dirk Minniefield of Kentucky, Kenny Higgs and Ethan Martin of LSU and Wes Flanigan of Auburn.

"It means a great achievement," said Watson, "but it's not going to mean anything if we don't do well this season."

Free throws and assists. Two things Watson is doing well. Almost as well as anyone who ever played at Tennessee.

UT's magical season continues

Mark Wiedmer, *Chattanooga Times-Free Press*

January 5, 2006

KNOXVILLE - Technically, it was still a basketball game with 4:15 to play, this non-conference pairing of Tennessee and South Alabama inside Thompson-Boling Arena on Wednesday night.

Yes, the Vols were ahead 79-65. But they had also led by 27 some nine minutes earlier. The Jaguars had erased six points in 75 seconds.

"We weren't really in trouble," UT guard JaJuan Smith would say later. "But they were hanging around."

Even Fox Sports South analyst Eddie Fogler, a Southeastern Conference coach of the year winner at both Vanderbilt and South Carolina, was telling his television audience that a Jaguars comeback was possible.

But then the super sub Smith curled from the wing toward the top of the key, though a good 25 feet from the goal. The super point guard C.J. Watson swiftly delivered him the ball. Smith just as swiftly turned and fired, a rainbow finding gold.

The spattering of Big Orange fans not sitting this one out to catch the opening minutes of the Rose Bowl stood and cheered. In front of the visitors bench, Jags coach John Pelphrey allowed his shoulders to slump.

Tennessee led 82-65. The Vols would win 87-69, their ninth win in 10 starts heading into Sunday's SEC opener at South Carolina. "Those guys are good," Pelphrey said afterward. "They've got a special player steering the ship in Watson. (Chris) Lofton may be the best shooter in their league, and it seems like all of them can knock down shots. And I think Tennessee's getting better."

Smith is one very big reason for that improvement. The 6-foot-2 sophomore from McMinn County High School averaged less than five points over the Vols' first four games this season. Over the last six games - including his 10 points against the Jags - he has averaged 10.2 points and 2.3 3-pointers.

"I think the question for Tennessee going into the SEC," Fogler said, "has been, 'If Watson and Lofton are not on the top of their games, can others step up?' But we're now seeing recognizable improvement in Smith and (Major) Wingate. You certainly have to be impressed by their unselfishness, by how Bruce (Pearl) has been able to get his players to believe in his system so quickly."

Few understand Pearl's system better than Pelphrey, who became a star at Kentucky playing a similar full-court style under Rick Pitino. In those days, the Wildcats were known as Pitino' Bombinos for both their reliance on and their love of the deep ball.

By Pitino's third season, the Bombinos had become the Unforgettables as UK went from 11-18 the year before Pitino arrived to overtime losers to national champion Duke in a NCAA tournament regional final that many label the Greatest Game Ever Played.

Asked to compare that first UK team he played on to this Tennessee squad, Pelphrey said: "There are definite similarities, but we couldn't have won a footrace with them. And Wingate and Patterson make them a little bigger than we were that first year."

Kentucky went 14-14 overall that first season under Pitino, finishing 10-8 in the league.

Could a similar fate await the Vols in conference play, given the Vols' 8-24 league road record the past four seasons?

"In the past seasons, we always felt like our last chance to getting in the NCAA tournament always came down to winning the SEC tournament," junior forward Dane Bradshaw said. "But now if we can go just 9-7 in the league, that would give us 18 wins and we'd have a great chance. We just have to keep getting better and playing with the confidence we have right now."

The league always separates the contenders from the pretenders. As good as UT has been under its new coach, the Vols still appear vulnerable to strong, deep, physical teams such as Oklahoma State, which hammered UT 89-73 the week before Christmas. The SEC is filled with teams of similar toughness.

Yet Wingate, who scored 17 points and blocked four shots against South Alabama, believes this is a far tougher team than the one that cost Buzz Peterson his job last spring.

"We just felt like losers (last year)," said Wingate. "I was one of them. But Coach Pearl came in and made everybody believers."

Added Smith, when asked to rate these Vols' improvement from last year on a scale of 1 to 10, "Ten. Ten…point...oh."

Or at least nine…and…one.

`Step-up' time for Vols

By John Brice, Maryville *The Daily Times*

January 8, 2006

KNOXVILLE - The basketball sailed high above the baseline, caromed off the basket and bonked an unsuspecting Bruce Pearl in the head.

It was practice -- the day before a game, and Tennessee's first-year coach never stopped coaching. His focus was an instant lesson to his team; Pearl had been stressing a need for a greater sense of urgency as the Vols (9-1) open Southeastern Conference play today, tip 1:30 p.m., at South Carolina (9-4).

"Whether or not we're prepared, we'll have to find out. We've done everything we can to prepare," said Pearl, who did pause long enough during drills to praise freshman Ryan

Childress' deflection off his cranium. "Now, it's all about step-up. How much step-up do we have? That's what you wait to see from each player and from a system of basketball."

By Pearl's admission, Tennessee has largely exceeded even his own expectations with an upset win at then-No. 6 Texas and its best start since the 2000-01 season. The Vols even cracked the national rankings for the first time in almost five years.

But the players - none of whom have ever participated in an NCAA Tournament game - are mindful that the season's success will be decided at season's end.

"We talked about being 10-0, I'm just going to be honest with you, going into SEC play," senior Stanley Asumnu said, his 10-point average included among the Vols' surprising start. "We're short of our goal, but it's still a great start in a new year. We just want to continue to build off that."

Pearl nearly faced significantly more reconstruction of the Tennessee program.

Re-recruiting the team

On the heels of Buzz Peterson's firing in March and an All-SEC freshman debut, Chris Lofton candidly spoke about the possibility he would transfer. A late addition to Peterson's final recruiting class, the Kentucky Mr. Basketball rewarded Peterson by breaking the SEC freshman-record for 3-pointers (93) and averaging 13.2 points as a rookie.

It was a different story for Major Wingate, who was thinking of leaving if Peterson stayed. A top-50 player nationally when he signed with the Vols in 2003, Wingate found the arrival of Pearl -- a protegé of Iowa legend Dr. Tom Davis -- a refreshing change.

"I think Coach Pearl gave us a lot of heart. I think a lot of players on our team felt like, actually we just felt like losers," Wingate said. "I know I was one of them. I was real close to transferring. Coach Pearl, he came in and made everybody believers, really. So we just got on his back, and he's carrying us."

Though he likewise considered leaving, Stanley Asumnu decided to return. Flourishing in Pearl's relentless, fast-paced system, the 6-foot-4 forward's average points (10), rebounds (3.1) and assists (2) are all career-bests.

"I feel more involved and involved with the team and our plan," said Asumnu, who entered the season best known as Lady Vol phenom Candace Parker's beau. "I'm doing more. It's just a different feeling. Coach Pearl has built a lot of confidence in me, as well as a lot of other players too."

Pearl has managed to instill belief among the Vols while wielding a tougher love on and off the court.

"To have Coach Pearl's approval is really nice. He'll tell you when he's happy with you, and he'll definitely tell you when he's not," junior forward Dane Bradshaw said. "We're aware of where his standpoint is at all times. The main thing is to keep him happy, and we'll be all right."

Where will the Vols stand?

Earlier this week Pearl was trumpeting the tenacity of the SEC, particularly that of its Eastern division. Florida is 13-0 following its win Saturday at Georgia, and the Gators are expected to rank just behind Duke and Villanova in the latest polls. Each of the Vols' division rivals has at least nine wins, and six league members have at least 10.

The players know that with the opening of SEC play today everything changes.

"It will be more intense basketball, better competition," the soft-spoken Asumnu said following practice and visits with every member of a Knoxville-area middle school team. "On any given night, any team can come out and beat a team. We can't take nights off. We've got to continue to build and come out with that intensity."

Said Bradshaw, "We're just a very confident team at this point. It really helps when you get a few early wins because that carries over. But even after our loss, our confidence remained high and we were able to play through it. We really feel as though we're going to win every close game."

The Vols sense the chance to do something special. Florida is the SEC's only unbeaten team. Perennial blue blood Kentucky suffered a 26-point loss to Indiana earlier, fell at Kansas Saturday by nearly 30 points and dropped four-point decisions to Iowa and North Carolina.

"I think this is a great opportunity this year," Asumnu said. "We have a new coach, a new staff. We're building the legacy here. It starts with us. What happens here, we'll just build on for the years to come."

Vols find shooting touch in second half

UT makes 10 of 13 treys after intermission, win at South Carolina

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

January 8, 2006

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Tennessee followed its worst half of basketball this season with arguably its best Sunday.

The Vols rallied from a 15-point second-half deficit en route to a 76-69 victory over South Carolina in both teams' SEC opener.

"The first half is nothing," said UT guard Chris Lofton, who scored 12 of his team-high 18 points in the second half, nine of those coming on NBA distance 3-pointers. "The second half is where it's at. I just try to have my spurts and do what I can."

Lofton and the Vols made a believer out of South Carolina coach Dave Odom by hitting 10 of 13 3-pointers in the second half and outscoring the Gamecocks 53-34 over the final 20 minutes.

"I thought we had things settled and going our way at the half," said Odom, whose team dropped to 9-5 with the loss. "(Lofton) is a tough guard. He hit seven (3-pointers) on us last year, six this year. Anybody not convinced he can shoot them, raise your hand."

With that, Odom abruptly left the podium.

Tennessee, meanwhile, moves to its SEC home opener against Georgia on Wednesday with a 10-1 overall mark and a 1-0 record in conference.

"This was our biggest win of the year," UT coach Bruce Pearl said. "The key today was we didn't panic."

Tennessee scored its first win in the Palmetto State since the 2000-2001 season and its first in the Colonial Center after three losses in the Gamecocks' pristine home arena.

It seemed an unlikely triumph after the Vols missed six first-half layups and were 3-for-12 from the free-throw line through the first 20 minutes.

But down 40-25 with 18:14 remaining, UT's players said they still believed, having come back to win two other games this season after trailing by nine or more points.

"With the way we can score, we know we have a big run coming," said Dane Bradshaw, who scored a career-high 14 points while holding 6-foot-8 South Carolina power forward Renaldo Balkman to eight points. "Chris (Lofton) is like a 9-0 run himself."

Bradshaw and Lofton hit back-to-back baskets to trigger an 18-7 rally. Running the offense in front of its bench, UT hit 5 of 7 treys during the run to cut the lead to 47-44 with 12:44 remaining.

South Carolina's last chance at regaining control came when Rocky Trice delivered on a drive to the basket and a free throw to give the Gamecocks a 54-49 lead with 9:58 left that got the crowd back into it.

South Carolina, however, could not take the Vols' players out of it.

Andre Patterson answered Trice's basket with a floating jumper as the shot clock expired to spark a 6-0 run that gave UT its first lead, 55-54, with 7:47 remaining.

Major Wingate scored the go-ahead bucket from deep in the lane with a powerful move to the basket. C.J. Watson set up the possession when he stole a pass and tumbled into Pearl on the sideline while calling timeout.

"C.J.'s play, and then we take the lead with Major, that right there pulled us through," Pearl said. "It really hurt (South Carolina). They had been killing us and controlling the game."

The Gamecocks regained the lead, 57-55, on a Tarence Kinsey (18 points) 3-pointer. But Tennessee tied the game on a Watson jumper the next trip down the floor. The Vols went ahead for good on their next possession when JaJuan Smith hit a spinning layup and converted a free throw to make it 60-57 at the 6:03 mark.

Smith, Lofton and Watson drilled consecutive 3-pointers as UT pulled away, leading 69-60 with 3:41 left.

Watson's trey was the seventh consecutive field-goal attempt the Vols hit and the team's fifth straight 3-pointer without miss.

Bradshaw's 3-pointer from the corner with 31 seconds left gave UT a 74-67 lead and essentially ended the game.

"We've done a 180," Bradshaw. "In a word, it's confidence."

Off Tackle: Pearl joked he didn't do a very good job catching Watson when he crashed into the UT bench area while making a pivotal steal.

"I looked bad on that play," Pearl said. "I tried to catch him but he blew me over. I didn't wrap up. Coach (John) Chavis would have substituted for me right away."

Chavis, of course, is the football Vols' defensive coordinator.

Microwave: Smith continues to help heat the team up quickly when he enters the game.

In addition to his 13 points on 4-of-6 shooting, Smith drew a charge and had a steal in consecutive possessions to keep UT's comeback alive.

"I was just trying to get the team energized," said Smith, who had 12 points in the Vols' 95-78 win over No. 6 Texas earlier this season. "It was just hustle plays."

Bad and Good: UT scored 14 points off turnovers, South Carolina had none off turnovers. ... UT shot 64.3 percent in the second half after making just 31 percent of its shot attempts in the first half. ... Bradshaw also led the Vols with seven rebounds and had a team-high four assists without a turnover. Watson had a game-high three steals.

Bradshaw silences heckler

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

January 8, 2006

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- At home in your living room, you, the Tennessee hoops fan, probably jumped out of your chair when Dane Bradshaw hit the 3-pointer with 31 seconds to play.

What the TV camera probably missed at the final horn of UT's 76-69 win Sunday was Bradshaw turning to the South Carolina student section and giving a military salute before he ran off the court.

From the opening tip-off at the Colonial Center, a leather-lunged young man of college age clad in a Gamecocks t-shirt was riding Bradshaw and Major Wingate.

Wingate was an obvious heckler's choice. The South Carolina native spurned the Gamecocks to play for the Vols.

But why Bradshaw?

"He's the only short white kid starting," Wingate explained with a laugh.

Guess what the short white kid did in the Vols' SEC opener?

"He outplayed everybody on the court today," said Wingate.

"Everybody underestimates Dane. Nobody understands that Dane has the biggest heart on

the team, probably in the SEC.

"He loves it when people underestimate him."

South Carolina underestimated him. No way the scouting report figured on 14 points, seven rebounds and four assists by a 6-foot-4 guy playing out position at power forward.

And get a load of this stat -- in the past six games, spanning 150 minutes of court time, Bradshaw is responsible for 27 assists and zero turnovers.

For sure, South Carolina's heckler underestimated him.

At first it was just, "Hey, Bradshaw."

Over and over.

At one point, Bradshaw turned to the heckler and responded.

"I just ask him to be a little more original," Bradshaw said later. "Maybe talk about a missed free throw or something."

To his credit, the loudmouth stepped up his game.

After Bradshaw opened the second half with two layups, the cry came:

"Bradshaw, the only thing you can make is a layup."

So, with 16:04 to play and Tennessee trailing 40-30, Bradshaw drilled a 3-pointer.

Response: "Bradshaw, go back to Memphis."

By that point, the Vols were in the throes of a full-speed rally. The heckler didn't have a lot to say as one 3-pointer after another drained through the net.

The most amazing of them was the one Bradshaw hit to virtually clinch the win.

The score was 71-67 UT. Bradshaw set a screen and then popped free in the corner, where C.J. Watson hit him with the pass.

Standing in front of the Tennessee bench, Bradshaw let her rip.

My first glance was to the shot clock -- 10 seconds left. What was he thinking?

"I was like, 'Oh, no!' I thought it was a bad shot in my mind," said teammate Chris Lofton.

Coach Bruce Pearl thought it was a great shot. A mandatory shot.

"Wide open shot," said Pearl. "Oh, my god, I'd have killed him if he turned that one down.

"South Carolina is playing good defense. ... Was anybody going to get a better look than that?"

Here, in a nutshell, is a three-step difference between Tennessee last year and Tennessee this year.

One, that Bradshaw took a 3-pointer with 10 seconds on the shot clock inside the final minute.

Two, that he hit it.

Three, that even before the ball went through the net, Bradshaw turned to the UT bench and, arms extended, gestured: How about that one, boys?

"There's a lot of confidence here with the players from our coaching staff," Bradshaw said.

"The confidence of the team is by far the best since I've been here."

Sunday, that snowballing confidence produced one astounding come-from-way-behind victory.

And it left a young heckler standing courtside as if in a daze. Trying to comprehend not only that the Vols were capable of such a thing, but that it was that Bradshaw guy who stuck the dagger.

No smoke or mirrors with Pearl

By David Climer, *The Tennessean*

January 9, 2006

His résumé told us he was a good coach.

But where in Bruce Pearl's biography does it mention that he's also a magician?

There is no other explanation. In 11 games, he has pulled 10 victories out of his hat, including the stunner at Texas last month and yesterday's SEC opener at South Carolina.

Where'd he learn his basketball, Hogwarts State? Coach Houdini didn't get off to this kind of start.

This basketball hocus-pocus is new at Tennessee. For the better part of the last two decades, the only magic at UT was the ability to make coaches disappear be-fore our very eyes. Pearl is UT's sixth coach in the last 17 years.

Remember, this is UT men's basketball, which routinely plays third fiddle in the winter-time behind football recruiting and Lady Vols basketball. Pearl coaches a team that plays its home games on a court bearing the name of Lady Vols coach/legend Pat Summitt.

Kevin O'Neill (remember him?) once remarked that his goal was to have a team that the women's team could be proud of. Then he left … for Northwestern.

Mind you, this is not a situation where critics can say that a new arrival is winning because of the talent assembled by his predecessor. No, Pearl is winning despite the talent assembled by his predecessor. Buzz Peterson left behind a roster that is short on size, shorter still on depth. Guards C.J. Watson and Chris Lofton are legitimate SEC talents, but the rest of the team is suspect.

Or so it seemed. Two months into its schedule, UT continues to play greater than the sum of its parts. Pearl is getting serious production from players who had languished on the bench or been non-factors under Peterson.

Instead of focusing on things step-slow Dane Bradshaw can't do, Pearl found things he can do. JaJuan Smith and Jordan Howell have had their roles defined. And who would've thought Major Wingate would be able to hold down the fort as the Vols' only real presence in the post?

Granted, it was not a seamless transition. Pearl started out by somehow alienating star recruit Tyler Smith of Pulaski. Smith was the prized acquisition of Peterson, a high-wire act of a wing player upon whom Peterson had built his pitch to stay. Smith never made it to UT.

Too, Pearl failed to land Nashville-born talent Jamont Gordon, who instead signed with Mississippi State, where he has started all 14 games this season. Also, there was the public relations snafu Pearl created by essentially telling Peterson signee Matthew Dotson thanks-but-no-thanks and releasing him from his scholarship. Dotson is now at Belmont.

But bygones are bygones. Pearl coaches in the present tense while maintaining an eye on the future. The recruiting class he assembled during the early signing period is a consensus top 10 - not in the SEC, in the nation.

All of this - a fast start, Pearl's first full recruiting class, his fan-friendly personality - can only mean one thing. Pretty soon, UT fans will be asking how long they can keep their basketball coach.

But Pearl says he's in it for the long haul. And at this rate, Big Orange Country could become Pearl's oyster.

The past is now in the past for basketball Volunteers

Darren Epps, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

January 9, 2006

COLUMBIA, S.C. - In the past, particularly in this building, they folded. On Sunday, . In the past, they lost their composure, their will and the game. In 2001, Buzz Peterson was ejected during a blowout loss at South Carolina. On Sunday, Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl and his team giggled in the huddle during a second half in which they trailed by 15 points.

In 2002, Ron Slay drew a technical here at the Colonial Center and spent the entire game moping around during another lopsided defeat. On Sunday, the Vols followed up a miserable first 20 minutes with just one turnover in the second half, reminding each other to keep their heads up the entire way.

In 2003, the Vols fell behind 21-3 to the Gamecocks and lost interest in the game. On Sunday, they fell behind 27-13 before hitting 10 of 13 3-pointers in the second half to stun South Carolina 76-69. "It's just amazing,"

center Major Wingate said, "what one change can do. Coach Pearl and his staff made a real drastic change in our whole program."

Absolutely. Under Peterson, the Vols were notorious for falling behind early and suffering through some nasty blowouts.

"It always got worse in the second half," guard Chris Lofton said.

Not under Pearl. His system always gives the Vols a chance no matter how far they fall behind. Sunday's win against South Carolina marked the third time the Vols erased a deficit of nine points or more and won the game. And that doesn't even count the 16-point halftime lead they nearly erased against Oklahoma State.

The Vols are well conditioned and wear down teams with their press. Their fast-paced tempo produces huge scoring spurts, like the 20-6 run they used to overwhelm the Gamecocks late in the game. The Gamecocks allow 59 points per game. Tennessee scored 53 in the second half.

Pearl's personality is equally important to the change in Tennessee's mentality. Lofton said Pearl didn't erupt at halftime, when the Vols trailed 35-23 after a poorly-played first half. Pearl even called a timeout right before a TV timeout in the second half - it seemed strange at the time - just to remind the Vols they were back in the game.

"It really is a total 180 from last year," guard Dane Bradshaw said.

And with the Vols trailing by one point with less than eight minutes remaining, Pearl and the Vols couldn't stop laughing. After JaJuan Smith's layup cut South Carolina's lead to 54-53, Watson sprinted toward the Tennessee bench and jumped in an attempt to steal the inbounds pass. Watson caught the ball, called timeout and crashed hard into Pearl, who fell on the laps of his players.

"I don't want to see that tape," Pearl said, smiling. "I looked bad."

Instead of grimacing or picking himself up quickly to avoid embarrassment, Pearl started chuckling. His players couldn't help but laugh at their coach. And so trailing by a point in the closing minutes of an SEC road game, the Vols were giggling.

And after the timeout, they hit their next six shots and took a 69-60 lead.

"That was great, because the guys were all laughing," Pearl said. "We were all in the huddle picking ourselves up. It's a onepoint game. We were having fun. That was a good sign."

The Colonial Center Curse seemed real once again in the first half. The Vols missed their first five free throws and started the game 5-of-21 from the field.

By the end, Lofton was draining 3-pointers from Spartanburg, Bradshaw was celebrating in front of the bench before his crucial 3-pointer late in the game swished through the net and the Vols were finally enjoying themselves in Columbia.

Do the Vols win this game in previous years? "Probably not," Watson said.

But as the Vols showed Sunday, the past is in the past.

UT's Dane Bradshaw one secret to Vols' success

by John Brice, Maryville *The Daily Times*
January 10, 2006

KNOXVILLE -- The notion is not one Bruce Pearl is willing to embrace.

Tennessee's first-year coach believes its neither fair nor accurate to handicap junior forward Dane Bradshaw's success during the Vols' 10-1 start.

``One thing I will not say is that Dane overachieves because that sort of sets a bar in a certain point and then you're saying he's playing above that," Pearl said. ``When you play as well as he's played with the consistency he's played at, it's not about overachieving.

``If he's maximizing his abilities in some ways, that's fine. That's what a player should try to do."

These days Bradshaw primarily focuses on being a nuisance to opponents -- something he finds a valuable defensive tool.

``Just fronting the post and really kind of trying to nag the offensive opponent there," said Bradshaw, who scored a career-high 14 points Sunday in the Vols' 76-69 come-from-behind win at South Carolina. ``They can get real frustrated, the big guys, because they'd much rather have somebody just playing behind them where they can post up on the block and make their move," he said.

Stationed inside for the Vols (10-1, 1-0 SEC) instead of at his natural guard position, the 6-foot-4 Memphis native has deployed various techniques around the basket against taller and heavier opponents. The 200-pound Bradshaw likely will be tasked with guarding 6-foot-9, 230-pound Georgia forward Steve Newman in Tennessee's SEC home opener Wednesday. Tip-off is 7:30 p.m.

Pearl says what makes Bradshaw's presence valuable inside is the way he fits within the system.

``The things that we're doing defensively all have to tie in," Pearl said. ``We can't pack it in defensively because we've got to pressure the ball to make those entry passes difficult. Because if we let them have target practice, they'll pick us apart.

``You have to do other things defensively to compensate for what could be a perceived weakness."

Bradshaw, the team-leader in both rebounds (6.1) and assists (4.3), limited 6-foot-8 Gamecocks forward Renaldo Balkman to just eight points in 33 points while he gathered a team-high seven rebounds as Tennessee rallied from down 15 points to win.

``He plays bigger, and he makes everybody better," Pearl said. ``When you hear Major Wingate's comments about how good his teammate is, therein lies the confidence of a basketball team."

On Monday, Bradshaw detailed a major component of working down low.

``I'm very dependent on my backside help, but that's every defense in college," he said. ``I really appreciate my teammates' help. I don't know, there's just a lot of advantages you can have" defending bigger opponents.

A former Tennessee Mr. Basketball finalist at White Station High School, Bradshaw struggled with his role, his shot and -- perhaps most importantly -- his confidence under former coach Buzz Peterson. That seems to have changed during a season in which Bradshaw has doled out 47 assists -- just 10 fewer than he had all last season -- and has not committed a turnover in six games. His seven 3-pointers made are one more than he had his entire sophomore year.

``I've gotten extra shots up for the last couple of years now; I've just been waiting to see some results," Bradshaw said. ``This was just one game, but it was definitely a game that's put me in the right direction and given me some more confidence in my shot, and that's a big factor as a shooter."

Fans give Vols boost

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*
January 12, 2006

KNOXVILLE - Dane Bradshaw can remember seeing a few crowds that were comparable to the 21,612 that turned out last night for Tennessee's 89-76 victory over Georgia.

"But they were wearing blue," Bradshaw joked.

His reference was to the throng of Kentucky fans that perennially flock to Thompson-Boling Arena to see their Wildcats.

Last night, it was a sea of orange.

"I think it really elevated our play," Tennessee Coach Bruce Pearl said. "When you're a team that depends on runs, it makes the runs last longer."

Senior point guard C.J. Watson said there were a few crowds his freshman season that were comparable, but he could feel the energy from the opening tip last night.

"It's nice to come in here and have a real home-court advantage," said Watson, a four-year starter. "It makes a big difference. We've been on the other end of that the last few years, so we know what it's like."

The UT students turned out in force, with 4,866 showing up to see the Vols win their fifth consecutive game and go to 11-1 overall, 2-0 in the Southeastern Conference. The students were there 45 minutes before the game to get a good spot under the basket closest to the Tennessee bench, and several had to sit in the upper deck.

"We can feel the excitement," sophomore guard JaJuan Smith said. "It's real nice when you're around town and people say, 'Thanks for bringing this back to us.' We appreciate it, and we appreciate the fans coming out."

Lauding C.J.: Pearl said Watson has been the most productive point guard in the SEC and is the best point guard he's ever coached.

"He's been unreal," Pearl said. "He's been a real difference in how we've been able to control some of these games."

Watson moved into third place on UT's career assists list with 512.

Keeping it in perspective: The Vols might be 11-1, but don't tell Pearl they've arrived.

He knows what's coming up over the next two weeks. Tennessee travels to LSU on Saturday and Memphis next Wednesday. Florida comes to Knoxville next Saturday, and Tennessee then heads to Mississippi State on Jan. 25.

"We've held serve and done what we're supposed to do," Pearl said.

In LSU and Memphis, he said, "We're getting ready to play two teams that are probably in the top 5 in talent in the country."

Asumnu responds: After struggling the last two games, senior Stanley Asumnu broke out of a slump to score nine points on 4-of-6 shooting.

Asumnu also had a hand in a key 13-4 run to break the game open in the second half.

He had two baskets in the lane and blocked a shot, which led to a Major Wingate three-point play on the other end.

"I've been on Stanley a little bit because he's been in a bit of a slump," Pearl said. "One thing I've asked him is there are some effort plays he could be making.

"Like a lot of players, he needs some offense to get himself going. You're not always going to have offense every night. We've been on Stanley pretty hard. I love him to death. He overcame that (last night). I put a lot of pressure on him."

Vols hottest, best show in K-town

Mark Wiedmer, *Chattanooga Times-Free Press*
January 12, 2006

KNOXVILLE - Thompson-Boling Arena's infamous Kiss-Cam filling up its giant video screens during a first-half timeout Wednesday night, the roving lens zoomed in on a winsome blonde.

Suddenly aware of her moment in the spotlight, she pulled her Bruce… Pearl…bobblehead …doll close and planted a big wet one on the miniature version of the Tennessee basketball coach.

It didn't bring the largest ovation of the night from the 21,612 jammed inside the Boling Alley. That was rightly reserved for the numerous highlight moments delivered by the Vols during their 89-76 blasting of Georgia.

But it was yet another example of just how swiftly the UT fan base has embraced its fast-talking, faster-playing coach, who has all but obliterated any discussion of shrinking Thompson-Boling's 25,000 seats to a more cozy environment.

"No one else in this conference but maybe Kentucky could put 21,000 in the building for an SEC (home) opener," said a smiling Pearl after his team won its 11th game in 12 starts and improved to 2-0 in the Southeastern Conference. "It elevates your play and makes your runs last longer. Some of these kids are doing things they can't do by and large, and I think the crowd has definitely played a role in that."

Everybody loves a winner. Especially Tennessee fans, who annually compete for the national attendance title in football, probably own every women's basketball attendance mark and could overthrow Kentucky for SEC crowd superiority in men's hoops if only the Boling Alley was filled to capacity each game.

Then again, if UK keeps playing as it has of late, these Vols may outdraw these Cats by the end of this season.

Of course, right now, Tennessee also appears the far superior team, blessed with a senior point guard who may be the best in the league, unless you've seen a better performance than the 20-point, nine-rebound, six-assist, fivesteal night turned in by C.J. Watson.

Then there's 6-foot-4 power forward - yes, power forward - Dane Bradshaw, who shook off a first-half sprained ankle well enough to deliver eight pinpoint assists that would make Magic Johnson proud, as well as hauling down eight rebounds.

"The ankle didn't matter; I've been playing slow all my life," Bradshaw said.

And don't forget JaJuan Smith, the former McMinn County star who launched eight 3-pointers from somewhere near his hometown, swished four of them and finished with 16 huge points off the bench.

"I gave him a curtain call at the end," Pearl said with a grin when asked how he keeps Smith out of the starting lineup, "because he doesn't get one at the beginning."

This team is beginning to deserve a string of curtain calls. Amazingly not in the Top 25, the Vols are leading the league in scoring, 3-point shooting, steals, turnover margin and assists-to-turnovers ratio. They're second in assists to No. 2 Florida.

Said Georgia point guard Sundiata Gaines: "They're a whole lot better than last year. They're a lot better defensively, offensively, and they've got a great coach over there."

No one is enjoying all of this more than the man who made this great hire - UT athletic director Mike Hamilton.

"Bruce's old boss at Southern Indiana, Steve Newton, told me that his energy is infectious," Hamilton said before the game. "Now that I've watched Bruce in action, I believe him. He's turned this town upside down. He's spoken to over 200 groups around the state. And he'll speak to anybody. Huge civic clubs or five little old ladies in a quilting club."

But the most amazing thing is how Pearl is quilting together one of the most remarkable

transformations of the college basketball season, marching a seemingly flawed and fragile team toward its first NCAA bid in five years.

"All my life I've been coaching in buildings that were too small," Pearl said afterward, his khaki suit soaked with the honest sweat of a hard-working winner.

"That's one of the things that drew me here to Tennessee. I wanted to have the problem of playing in a building that people said was too big. It didn't look too big tonight."

Pearl's presence perfect fit

by John Brice, Maryville *The Daily Times*
January 12, 2006

KNOXVILLE -- Never one to let the potential of a savvy business venture slip through the cracks, University of Tennessee Athletic Director Mike Hamilton was calculating the next endorsement deal Wednesday night for basketball coach Bruce Pearl.

Hamilton, who joined 21,612 of his closest friends inside Thompson-Boling, instantly recognized an opportunity to cash in on the increasingly-popular Pearl after his Vols starched Georgia, 89-76.

``I told him, I've got to get him a dry-cleaning deal somewhere because he burns through suits," Hamilton said of Pearl 100 feet down the hardwood trying to keep the win in perspective as fans exalted him on radio airwaves. ``And that's the way he is every day. He's really great because he's always trying to think, `What's the next thing we need to be going?' He's trying to think one step ahead of everybody else. I like to work with people who have great work ethic and are going to give their best, whatever their best is. And Bruce Pearl is one of those guys."

Listening to Hamilton's assessment of his coach, it shouldn't be too surprising the way this Tennessee team has attracted fans, exceeded expectations and -- gather yourselves -- remained tied atop the Southeastern Conference's Eastern Division with Florida. Dane Bradshaw, an instant favorite among the freshly-dubbed ``Rocky Top Rowdies," played through a sprained ankle that left him limping along the court. C.J. Watson got busted in the mouth, his post-game stat line the only thing fatter than his lip: game-high 20 points, six assists and five steals.

Even 6-foot-10 Major Wingate, often criticized for his lack of aggression, overcame a nasty first-half spill to finish with 14 points and six rebounds.

Vol fans, many of them still bitter following a football season that was a glaring disappointment, are showing the kind of infatuation with Pearl that befits a teen-age romance. That's fans of all ages. One lady was shown on the arena's giant video screens kissing her Bobblehead Bruce, 1,000 of which disappeared soon after gates opened 90 minutes before tip-off.

``It was very surprising and uplifting to see all the fans and the students there," said Watson, deservedly garnering acclaim among the top point guards in the country. ``It just gave us an extra boost."

Of course, maintaining a level viewpoint is important. Pearl pleaded for such in his postgame -- recognizing that his team will eventually have certain limitations exposed and, despite preaching a one-game-at-a-time mantra, outlining his team's daunting three-game stretch at LSU, at No. 5 Memphis and home against second-ranked Florida.

``We've done what we were supposed to do," Pearl said, dark stains on his suit betraying his suave post-game demeanor. ``I know what's coming up. You take them one at a time. You just can't look down the road. You've just got to look to LSU."

Meanwhile, Hamilton, who casually studies sports psychology, indicated he might seek ways to transfer Pearl's pizzazz into other programs.

``Well, it's an interestng lesson in that you basically are taking the same guys (from a year ago), less 40 percent of the scoring on our team (Scooter McFadgon and Brandon Crump). And what he's done is he's been able to get something extra out of every one of his guys," Hamilton said. ``So my question to all of our other coaches is `Is there extra that we can get out of all of our other athletes?' As a staff, is there extra that we can get out of each staff member?

``These guys came to the University of Tennessee as winnners, and they came here expecting to win."

This is a Tennessee program starving for good things, yearning to show it can play its way out of the Lady Vols' shadow. There hasn't been an NCAA Tournament bid in four years, and Jerry Green, the predecessor to Pearl's predecessor, Buzz Peterson, had a funny way of alienating, well, everyone.

``It was amazing walking around the building tonight with the number of people coming up and saying how excited they are about basketball, great hire, thank you for bringing Bruce Pearl to Tennessee," said Hamilton. ``Thank you for bringing back men's basketball to Tennessee. That's certainly, as athletic director, very gratifying."

Even Pearl couldn't resist declaring the Vols are back - to a certain degree.

``I feel like we've got to do what we can to carry our part," he said. ``I'm really, really proud of what happened here Saturday (when the Lady Vols topped UConn). It was an event. (This) was an event.

``It's basketball time in Tennessee."

And it's time for tailors to inquire about a clothing deal with the man who brought it back.

Pearl's routine unchanged

Brent Hubbs, VolQuest.com
January 12, 2006

For Bruce Pearl the 48 hours leading up to Wednesday night's game against Georgia was nothing special. It was all about the only thing that Pearl knows to do and that is promote, promote, promote.

Pearl started Monday night when he gave two hours of his night at the Texas Roadhouse for Volcalls where he visited with fans and did his radio show. Tuesday morning, Pearl dropped in the ticket office and delivered bagels to the employees to say thanks.

Tuesday night, Pearl left the office and stopped by a couple of cafeteria's on campus and stood on a chair and delivered a speech then shook hands and asked students to come to the game and to go to the Lady Vols game on Thursday night.

On Wednesday night, Pearl walked out on the floor just after six and said thank you to 4866 students who attended and told them how much they were needed.

None of it surprises anyone who knows Bruce Pearl. All Pearl knows to do it promote, and promote he has to the tune of the second largest crowd in Thompson-Boling Arena for an SEC opening game as nearly 22-thousand fans piled into the arena built more for tractor-pulls and circuses. That's 22-thousand without an opposing coach named Tubby Smith, Billy Donovan, Rick Pitino or Geno Aurimena strolling the sidelines.

If you are keeping score that's 22 thousand fans in a game that pitted the two teams picked to finish last in the SEC east.

For those who grew up going to Tennessee games from the old Vol Classics in Stokley to the five win days in Thompson Boling Arena, Wednesday night was different. But it was not only different for the die hards. It was different for everyone.

"It was fun," point guard CJ Watson said. "I was coming from class this morning and some guy I did not know said good luck tonight and that he would be there pulling for us."

Fellow guard Dane Bradshaw said it almost felt surreal walking out onto the court.

"Coming out 40 minutes before the game and seeing the students there was amazing," Bradshaw said. "For them to come out on the first day of school and to have the word going around on campus all day that they were going to the game tonight was just huge for us. It was almost a football like atmosphere minus about 80-thousand, but it was big for us. I love the job that coach Pearl has done getting out and trying to make a name for this team."

Now before everyone goes off the deep end, this is a fragile basketball team. They will lose again and they are an injury or so away from being in a real bad spot.

But Wednesday night, Tennessee basketball was in a different spot. They were in a place that Mike Hamilton did not see coming this fast and a place that Doug Dickey could never envision. And aside from a ill-timed announcement about a wreck on the interstate, Thompson-Boling Arena was about basketball.

For the first time in five coaching tries it really felt like a foundation was being laid for not just this season and what may or may happen, but for the future. It seemed like fans viewed being at a Tennessee basketball game as an event and it was exciting.

And if you think Bruce Pearl is sitting back and resting on things don't because somewhere this morning Pearl started his day the way he always does and that is selling.

His sells himself, he sells his players, his coaches and his program because for Bruce Pearl it's always been about building a foundation one seat at a time, at Tennessee he has more seats then ever before. A problem that he gladly embraces.

"I have always been in buildings that were too small," Pearl said. "I like the problem of having them too big. It didn't look to big tonight."

Quiet Storm - Watson's competitive drive fuels Vols' fast start

by John Brice, Maryville *The Daily Times*
January 14, 2006

KNOXVILLE -- Once he assumes control of Peyton Manning, C.J. Watson insists he becomes unstoppable.

There simply is not another player on Tennessee's basketball team capable of competing with the 6-foot-2, 178-pound Las Vegas native. Not on the Madden NFL 2006 football video game. Watson -- always the Indianapolis Colts because of "Peyton Manning" -- struggles to find a worthy opponent.

"Nobody really" has afforded much of a challenge, Watson said. "When you're winning by 21, the game's over. So we just stop the game. That's usually by the second quarter."

Playing video games, Tennessee's senior point guard unleashes an incendiary competitive spirit rarely visible on the court that cultivates his reputation as the most competitive player for the Vols (11-1, 2-0), who are visiting LSU (9-5, 1-0) tonight at 8 (FSN, Channel 21).

"I beat him in Madden about a year ago, and he tried to get kind of personal," guard Dane Bradshaw said. "I had to back off a little bit. He's quiet, but when he loses, you don't want to hear about it."

Stanley Asumnu, who played AAU basketball with Watson and arrived at UT in the same recruiting class four years ago, heard about Bradshaw's virtual win.

"I wasn't there, but we all heard about it. I think Dane beat him in a game of Madden, and C.J. was ticked," Asumnu said. "He was like, `OK, let's take it to the court. Let's go to the court right now, and let's settle this.' But that's just how competitive he is."

Displaying marked improvement on the court, Watson believes a rematch with Bradshaw off the court would work in his favor.

"That was a long time ago; I'm a lot better now," Watson said. "I think I'm pretty much undefeated now. Me and Dane haven't played this year's Madden yet, but we may play on this LSU trip."

First-year Vol coach Bruce Pearl marvels at Watson's competitive nature every day in practice.

"It's like in free-throw contests. C.J., he never loses," said Pearl, the consummate salesman who's got the Vols buying into his fast-paced system. "And he wants to go up against different guys, and believe it or not, he even talks a little smack. Quietly. He's a quiet assassin. He is. He is competitive at everything."

Challengers welcome

Though Madden NFL is Watson's preferred competitive outlet off the court, he plays everything from NBA video games to checkers. Teammates, other athletes on campus. And always family members when Watson gathers at his sister's house in Nashville.

"Once they try to compare me to anybody else, then we play, and I always win," he said.

"Other athletes, other sports. Different family members. My sister (Vonyette) and her husband."

The competitions?

"Checkers, cards, pretty much everything. I don't like to lose at anything. Whatever kind of game it is, I always want to win," Watson explained.

Sophomore guard JaJuan Smith has battled Watson on NBA Live 2006 with mixed results. But when Smith wins, he knows what happens next.

"He's rough, and he hates to lose," the former McMinn Central standout said. "We sit around at the house, and we can be playing NBA Live or Madden, and if I beat him, I've got to go.

"You can beat him on the PlayStation in a basketball game, and if you do it there, he's going to say you can't do it in real life. So you're going to have to go to the court and try to do what you're going to do. But he's probably going to get you there."

Smith has a pretty good idea of what happens after Watson shows him the door.

"Say we beat him in a video game, I bet when he kicks us out, he's going to stay and practice until he gets better," Smith said. "That's just something he'd do and the type of guy he is."

Talkative `Quiet' time

Asked if he thought outsiders might find his competitive zeal surprising, Watson said, "I think it probably does shock people. I think a lot of things about me would shock people. It's just something in my nature, really, something I got from my mom and dad."

Watson, dubbed "Quiet Storm" by his sister, flashed an increasingly-recognizable smile and peeled away another layer.

"I talk a lot to people I'm comfortable around," Watson, an elaborate "Quiet Storm" tattoo etched onto his right arm, said. "That's probably just the main thing. Everybody thinks I'm quiet just around everybody, but I'm not."

Neither is he wasting a final season on college hardwoods.

A natural pair

When Buzz Peterson was fired last March and replaced by Pearl; and leading scorers Scooter McFadgon and Brandon Crump exhausted their eligibility, the Vols were near-consensus picks to finish fifth this season in the SEC East. But with Watson driving the team on the court and Pearl infusing life into the program, Tennessee is off to its best start in five years.

Unchained in Pearl's frenzied, uptempo assault, Watson's scoring average (16.8) and field goal percentage (53.4) are soaring above his previous career bests (11.9 points and 42.6 percent) though he's playing nearly four minutes less per game. Watson's taking better care of the basketball, too. His 24 turnovers through 12 games are one-fourth of his 96 as a junior.

"I think my style helps a lot because that's just how Coach Pearl is. He doesn't like to lose, and he's always attacking," Watson said. "Being aggressive, even while he's coaching. It just rubs off on me even more."

Smith believes it's Watson's insatiable desire to succeed that accounts for an 87.5 free-throw percentage -- up 22 points since his rookie campaign three years ago.

"I know one time, he missed two free throws (during a game), and he was in here till midnight just saying he wouldn't miss another free throw," said Smith, who credits Watson for helping him become the Vols' top bench player. "And he's got his free-throw percentage up real good right now."

At the close of a light practice Thursday, Watson squeezed in extra competition. He toed the charity stripe against junior forward Major Wingate. Results were mixed.

"Even on free throws, I hate losing," Watson said. "Major beat me, but he had a five-point spread so it was lucky by him."

Pearl acknowledges luck has little to do with Watson's effectiveness.

"He is the most productive guard in the conference," Pearl said. "I'm not in a position to say if he's the best in the SEC. But I will say this, having been with C.J. for a while, I can talk to guys at the next level and say he's going to make a roster, he's going to play in the league for a long time. What his role is going to be? I don't know. But he's a pro."

For his part, Watson's primary concern is dislodging the bitter pill of losing too many games in his past two seasons.

"I heard once before that you have to lose before you can win, and we've done a lot of losing the last couple of years," the pre-season All-SEC pick said. "It's probably our time to win. We're just trying to take it one game at a time and try to win all our games."

Men's hoops! At UT!

Behind dynamic new coach, Volunteer fans have plenty of reasons to pack the games again

By Ron Higgins, Memphis *Commercial Appeal*

January 16, 2006

KNOXVILLE -- The wise elderly gentleman sat silently near courtside, a Tennessee's men's basketball practice unfolding before him in an almost-empty Thompson-Boling Arena.

This has been a daily routine for Jim McCoin, 74, ever since the late 1970s when the Tennessee alumnus moved back to Knoxville after retiring from the Army and becoming a professor at a local community college.

He has seen good practices from bad teams and bad practices from good teams. He has witnessed little players with big hearts and big players with no hearts. He has observed all kinds of coaching styles, from deliberate Don DeVoe, sometimes X-rated Kevin O'Neill to nice guy Buzz Peterson.

But the soft-spoken McCoin hasn't seen anyone like first-year Vols coach Bruce Pearl.

"I'm not a coach or a sportswriter, and I don't pretend to be," an apologetic McCoin said. "But I've never seen a coach who teaches like Coach Pearl. Not only does he tell a player to do something, he explains why they are doing it. He wants them to understand, it and you can see they appreciate that. His coaching makes more common sense than any coach we've had here through the years."

Pearl's players, off to an 11-2 start overall and 2-1 in the Southeastern Conference heading into their last nonconference game of the regular season at No. 5 Memphis on Wednesday, feel the same way. So do the Vols' fans. They've shown their love for Pearl's uptempo, relentless style of play by averaging 15,569 in the first eight home games, including 21,612 at Wednesday's Southeastern Conference opener against Georgia.

"We've got a long way to go, but here's a couple of questions for you," said Pearl, turning from interviewee to interviewer. "What's more surprising, our record or the fact we had 21,000 in here the other night? And who's done a better job -- our players, our coaches or our fans?

"I think that's debatable. What's going on is it's not one entity. What's making it so much fun is that we're all doing this thing together."

Coaching graveyard

In college basketball coaching circles, the Tennessee men's basketball job has been viewed as a Big Orange graveyard. Ever since the mid-70s when Vols coach Ray Mears and all-Americans Bernard King and Ernie Grunfeld rode off in the sunset in their old-school bun-hugging shorts, the men's program has been more miss than hit.

The last five Tennessee coaches, spanning 1978-79 through last season -- DeVoe, Wade Houston, O'Neill, Jerry Green and Peterson -- combined for eight NCAA Tournament wins (five by DeVoe, three by Green), one SEC Tournament title (1979 under DeVoe) and shared two regular-season league championships.

Combine that with the perennial success of the football program and the six-time national champion Lady Vols basketball team, and Tennessee's men's basketball had become the underachievers of the UT athletic family.

Every year if the men's team doesn't look promising by the time conference play starts in early January, the attention of Vols' fans turns to football recruiting, or whether they can start booking hotel rooms for the women's Final Four. Men's basketball eventually becomes a "how long before we get another new coach?" proposition.

"That attitude is not acceptable to me," said third-year Tennessee athletic director Mike Hamilton. "We had 19 of our 20 sports playing in the postseason last year and 18 of 20 ranked in the top 25. We have the resources here to win."

But it seems the Vols never had the right coaching formula. Either the playing style of the Vols was too deliberate or too out-of-control. Some coaches, like O'Neill, were strong recruiters. Other coaches, with little or no previous head coaching experience, never quite figured out a consistent on-court philosophy.

When Hamilton made the decision to fire Peterson, he found Pearl, 45, a hidden gem with 27 seasons on the sidelines. His first 14 seasons were as an assistant for Dr. Tom Davis at Boston College, Stanford and Iowa. His last 13 seasons were as a head coach at Division 2 Southern Indiana for nine years where he won the '95 national championship, then the last four years at Division 1 University of Milwaukee-Wisconsin, where he was in the NCAA tourney twice, including last year's team that advanced to the Sweet 16.

From afar, Hamilton loved Pearl's track record of success: 12 20-win seasons, and his 13 years head coaching experience, which was almost as much as the three previous Tennessee coaches combined when they were hired by UT. Once Hamilton met Pearl face-to-face, he knew he'd found his man.

"I felt I had a connection with Bruce," Hamilton said. "I felt that with Bruce's charisma and infectious personality, the way he related to our team and fans, that there would be an upswing in our program.

"Bruce has a maturity that comes with his experience. He has a plan how he'll handle his players, how he'll handle discipline, how he handles media, how he handles speaking requests. He has been around the block."

Pearl didn't have to do much homework on the Vols' coaching vacancy. He knew the negatives and embraced them.

"They had a history of coaching changes -- guys have won and got fired, and guys have lost and got fired," Pearl said. "There's not a local recruiting talent base. And everyone said

the building (24,535-seat Thompson-Boling Arena) is too big.

“But with the way the Lady Vols have played, you know the interest is here. There’s a passion. We’ve got to give fans something to be interested about. I’ve spent my whole life coaching in gyms that were too small. I’m finally in one that’s too big. It’s a nice problem to have.”

He can talk, but can he coach?

There’s no doubt that Pearl, a Boston native (and naturally a raving Red Sox fan) knows how to sell a product. In his first six months on the job, the Boston College Class of 1982 graduate had more than 200 speaking engagements. He and his staff, including veteran recruiter Scott Edgar, who’s best known for tapping into talent-rich Memphis for then-Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson in the late 1980s, have a ‘06 recruiting class ranked among the nation’s top 10.

Even tireless Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt said that “you sometimes have to talk to him (Pearl) on the move.”

Pearl got high marks from two of the best players in Tennessee history, Dale Ellis and Grunfeld, the latter who calls Pearl “a basketball junkie.”

Media are drawn to him, as if he’s the Dale Brown of the new millennium, someone like the former LSU coach who can fill a reporter’s notepad and tape recorder.

But the people a coach can’t fool are his players. They know right away if he can help them win, if he can make them better, and the Vols quickly discovered the new guy had coaching chops.

“I don’t think there was ever a problem of us buying in to what Coach Pearl wanted,” said Vols junior and former White Station High star Dane Bradshaw, whose gritty play as one of the shortest starting power forwards (6-4) in Division 1 makes him the poster boy for Pearl’s relentless attacking style of play. “He had a background of winning at every level and he beat an SEC team (fifth-seeded Alabama) in the NCAA Tournament last year. His coaches feel strongly about their stuff, you have no choice but to love it.”

Knowing that his team has just four scholarship players taller than 6-5, Pearl began preparing his team for his full speed ahead style with brutal preseason conditioning. The Vols stopped working out in the Thompson-Boling weight room and began lifting with the football players at their weight room.

And there were the running workouts, including never-ending sprints up the steep hill that leads from street level at Neyland Stadium down to the visitors’ locker room area.

“You know Gate 10, you know that hill?” said Vols guard Chris Lofton, who tops the SEC in three-pointers made per game. “We started running that thing 10 times straight, and after about six times our legs were gone. But then, we got to running it 20 times, and it’s really paying off now. We don’t get tired.”

In the SEC opener at South Carolina, the Vols trailed by 15 in the second half before kicking it in gear, hitting 10-of-13 threes in a 76-69 victory. A few days later against Georgia, the Vols led the Bulldogs by four midway through the second half before disruptive, pressing defense sent Georgia into a series of bad shots and turnovers, leading to an 89-76 UT victory.

Even in the 88-74 loss at LSU on Saturday against a considerably taller and more physical Tiger team, the Vols never backed off the accelerator. Win or lose, it’s the way they play, and it’s much appreciated by Tennessee fans starving for a hard-nosed style.

The Vols lead the SEC in six statistical categories, ranging from scoring average to steals to assists to turnover ratio.

“Many times, I’ve heard people say, ‘Even if y’all lose, I’m going to keep coming out and watch y’all because I love the way y’all play with heart and passion,” Bradshaw said. “Coach still feels we can play harder, and fans are buying into our fast tempo. We’ve got to continue to keep people happy, and wins can always do that.”

Bradshaw and his teammates are so taken aback by the sudden fan support -- “Students actually show up early before the game to get good seats and heckle the other team,” he said -- that it has been overwhelming. Vols center Major Wingate was in Pearl’s office Thursday morning, raving that “more people came up to me this morning in two hours and told me ‘good game’ than in the last two years.”

Staying on the ‘up’ elevator

Pearl even admits he’s a bit surprised at his team’s start, which includes a 17-point win at No. 6 Texas in which the Vols hit 12-of-24 threes and made 25-of-28 free throws.

“This has been the fastest transition to this point in the first year of any programs I’ve been in,” Pearl said. “We’ve done everything and a little more than what I expected.

“But we’ve got to keep everything in perspective. We beat Texas when they were missing a starter. Beating South Carolina and Georgia, it was like we held serve. But games like LSU, Memphis and (No. 2) Florida (on Saturday) in Knoxville are opportunity games. They don’t come along very often.”

Tennessee senior point guard C.J. Watson, the SEC’s fourth-leading scorer at 16.8 points and the league’s top free throw shooter, said the fast start has been nice. But it won’t get the Vols anywhere in March at tournament time unless they stay hungry.

“In this league, you can win three in a row or lose three in a row at any time,” Watson said. “We’re trying to stay confident and humble at the same time. We’re still trying to get respect from everybody.”

They’ve got it at home. And that’s a huge start.

Rare win a sign of more to come?

by John Brice, Maryville *The Daily Times*

January 22, 2006

KNOXVILLE -- These are rare times on the University of Tennessee campus, where men's basketball is king and plenty of popcorn money makes a looming $5,000 fine from the SEC seem like, well, peanuts.

Plenty of which were sold to a capacity crowd of 24,011 Saturday night inside Thompson-Boling Arena -- unofficially the Pearl Palace. Cokes, hot dogs, pretzels and, most importantly, a quality, exciting brand of basketball were on the menu.

A teeming sea of big orange stood -- the entire game across an ever-widening crest of students -- poised to wash over its hardwood heroes and carry its coach, Bruce Almighty, on a jubilant tidal wave. Top-ranked and unbeaten Duke already had lost. So, too, had similarly unbeaten and top 10 Pittsburgh. These were more than college upsets; the misfortune of the unbeatens seemed harbingers of hope for the Vols.

Even first-year coach Bruce Pearl, in an impromptu pregame address to a throng of students gathered on an arena concourse, foretold of a Tennessee win. Pearl was, as with so many things this season, correct. Displaying a mix of speed, skill and, most of all, fortitude, Tennessee rallied from eight points down to knock off the would-be No. 1 Gators, 80-76.

The Vols entered the game through the student section and exited with them shoulder-to-shoulder, a wild scene on the court eliciting a mandatory fine from the SEC.

"This was the shot heard round the world and round the country," said Pearl, who's given a victory-starved hoops program two wins against top-six opponents in one season for the first time since 1976-77. "This league is so competitive. There were already a number of terrific upsets. I think when teams like Tennessee can rise up and create a better balance in the league, we all benefit."

No one has benefited more from Pearl's arrival than the players. Chris Lofton, who led all scorers with 29, carried the Vols early and steadied them late when veteran C.J. Watson fouled out. Off the bench, Andre Patterson, a UCLA transfer, and JaJuan Smith, an energetic former walk-on, combined for 22 points and 16 rebounds. They scored 15 of those in the second half, when the Vols got major contributions from stars like Lofton and reserves such as Jordan Howell and Ryan Childress.

Yet it's easy to single out Dane Bradshaw, an out-of-position, ill-fitting piece in two previous seasons for Buzz Peterson to illustrate the Pearl touch. The 6-foot-4 target of ridicule in every opposing venue is the heart and soul of the team. A power forward in a guard's body, Bradshaw hit the game-winner with 19 seconds left on a steal and length-of-the-court heave from the former All-State footballer Lofton.

"I fell down trying to get the rebound (on Lofton's missed trey), and I looked up right when he got it," said Bradshaw. "I knew I was wide open, and I got a little tight there. I saw (Al) Horford trailing the play, and Chris threw it to me and I told him `Thanks for getting me on SportsCenter.'"

More than anything, the players are grateful to be known on campus for something other than losing.

"It's always great when the fans get involved, especially the first two years I've been here (the arena) was kind of like an empty ghost town," Patterson said. "I've seen it for women's basketball, and I know how they feel now. We've seen football with 107,000, and it was great. "We wanted to win, too. We were like the low team on the totem pole for a couple of years here, the only team not winning. We just wanted to change that."

Perhaps, they have. It's possible Saturday's win signals the start of something much more. An era in which basketball is much more than a bridge to spring football.

Rare times, indeed.

Vols send very loud message

Huge crowd factors in

Tony Barnhart, Atlanta *Journal-Constitution*

January 22, 2006

Knoxville --- When Bruce Pearl became head basketball coach at Tennessee, he had big dreams of what the Volunteer program could ultimately become. But never in his wildest dreams, Pearl said, did he imagine the celebration that took place Saturday night at a sold-out Thompson-Boling Arena.

Tennessee rallied from an eight-point deficit to shock No. 2 Florida 80-76, its first win over a top-five team since 2003. The moment it was over, the sixth-largest crowd in school history stormed the floor. Pearl, outfitted in orange suspenders and a brand new tie from women's coach Pat Summitt, was more than happy to join in.

"This is a shot that will be heard around the country," he said.

Tennessee's victory put the perfect nightcap on a day that saw all three of college basketball's unbeatens --- Duke, Florida and Pitt --- go down.

But this game was more than just Pearl's signature SEC victory. It served notice to the rest of the league: Tennessee, which has posted only eight NCAA tournament victories in almost 30 seasons, is back.

"What can you say? It is a night that none of us --- our students, our fans and our players --- will ever forget," Pearl said.

Florida (17-1, 3-1 SEC) appeared to be the deeper team and several times looked like it would take control of the game. But the overflow crowd of 24,011 wouldn't let their team lose.

"This team does not back down from anybody," said Vols guard Chris Lofton, who scored 29 points but made the play of the game on defense with a steal which led to a Dane Bradshaw layup with 20.4 seconds left. "I felt all day like this was going to be a special night."

Lee Humphrey, a native of nearby Maryville, Tenn., canned a 3-pointer to give the Gators a 46-38 lead with 18:08 left. But Florida couldn't put away the Volunteers (12-3, 3-1), and it cost them dearly.

Lofton hit his fifth 3-point shot of the night to tie it at 59 with 9:29 left. The game was still tied, 76-all, when a hobbled Corey Brewer made two free throws with 45 seconds to go.

After a timeout with 39.1 seconds left, Lofton launched a 3-pointer that missed the mark. Florida had the ball and was in position to win, but Brewer's pass was picked out of mid-air by Lofton, who threw the length of the floor to Bradshaw for a basket and a 78-76 lead.

"Just a great, great play," Bradshaw said.

After a missed 3 by Humphrey, Lofton hit two free throws with six seconds left to provide the final margin.

"Lofton was the man tonight," said Pearl, who took over at Tennessee after leading Wisconsin-Milwaukee to the Sweet 16 last season. "He just had that look."

But Pearl's greatest praise came for the Tennessee crowd, which began screaming before the opening tip and never stopped.

"Humphrey misses that shot at the end because there were 25,000 who were determined that the shot was not going to go down," Pearl said.

With a win, Florida would have likely moved to the nation's No. 1 ranking for the first time since Dec. 8, 2003.

Brewer led the Gators with 20 points.

"We played great tonight, we really did," UF coach Billy Donovan said. "They gave me everything I could possibly want. I am really proud the way our team responded here. This was the toughest road environment we faced all season."

UT hoops suddenly a hot ticket

By David Climer, *The Tennessean*

January 22, 2006

KNOXVILLE - Consider this a curtain call.

Without the curtains.

Playing to a packed house at what used to be an arena where home teams went to die, Tennessee's upset of Florida last night signaled that the Vols are, at long last, back in basketball business.

This is getting serious. Enchanted with pied-piper Coach Bruce Pearl, Vols fans are drinking the orange Kool-Aid and showing up in such numbers that UT officials have taken down the curtains that for so long obscured the empty upper reaches of Thompson-Boling Arena.

"It's great for us to be a part of something like this," said forward Andre Patterson, who authored a double-double against Florida's physical front line.

"The first two years I was here, this place was like a ghost town."

Not now. The final horn of the Vols' 80-76 win set off the kind of outrageous celebration usually reserved for UT victories over Florida … in football. Many in the crowd of 24,011 (yes, 24,011) spilled onto the floor at the end.

Remember, this came against a Florida team that arrived in town undefeated and was poised to ascend to No. 1 in the rankings after Duke lost earlier yesterday.

I'm guessing here, but I suspect UT Athletics Director Mike Hamilton will be glad to pony up the $5,000 fine imposed by the SEC for such post-game intervention by fans. Hiring Pearl already is money in the bank.

"I couldn't be happier," gushed Pearl. "I can't even begin to emphasize what a difference 24,000-plus make on our play and our poise.

"And I think it affected Florida. This is the toughest place they've had to play to this point."

Indeed, it was the kind of supercharged atmosphere seen at customary SEC basketball hotbeds. If Pearl's team keeps this up, you can add Thompson-Boling Arena to the list.

"This game had become an event," said Dane Bradshaw, whose lay-up off a Chris Lofton steal and pass pushed the Vols up 78-76 with 20.4 seconds left. "The students have been talking about this like it was a football game."

My, my, how times have changed. For most of its 18 years, Thompson-Boling Arena has been an orange and white elephant, the butt of jokes because of the comparative scarcity of butts in seats. Of the 10 largest crowds ever to watch basketball games at the arena, five were for Lady Vols games.

Last year, with things turning decidedly south for Buzz Peterson, the Vols averaged a mere 12,226 for 16 home games, the lowest in arena history. Optimists saw the arena as half-full; pessimists as half-empty. Hamilton saw it as one more compelling reason to hasten the departure of Peterson.

Enter Bruce Pearl. His ringmaster personality and his team's overachieving style have taken UT men's basketball off life-support, while lending needed financial support to this supply-side athletics department economy.

"We are seeing some significant movement on the financial side," Hamilton said.

Before the arena doors opened last night, Hamilton said ticket sales and concession revenues had surpassed last year's total - with seven SEC home games remaining. And the big financial push is expected to come next fall when season tickets go on sale. After years of declining or flat season-ticket sales, Hamilton foresees a major increase from the 9,512 season tickets sold for Pearl's sight-unseen debut.

"He's the kind of coach that makes you believe you can win," Lofton said.

Pass the orange Kool-Aid.

Make it a double.

Tennessee blocks Gators' path to top spot

by Pat Forde, ESPN.com

January 22, 2006

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. -- 'And One' Saturday is in the books, and it had nothing to do with the shoe company or a free throw after a made basket. It had to do with this:

Pittsburgh: 15 and one.

Duke: 17 and one.

And here, from rollicking Rocky Top, came the trifecta Saturday night. Good things and celebrity deaths allegedly come in threes, and on this day so did the shocking losses for undefeated teams.

Florida: 17 and one.

'And oh' is out the window.

By tipoff in Thompson-Boling Arena, the Gators had quite unexpectedly become the Team of the Moment in college basketball. The last unbeaten, after the Panthers and then the Blue Devils had been stunned earlier in the day. The Gators were poised to replace Duke at the top of the rankings, if it simply could dispatch a Tennessee Volunteers squad riding a two-game losing streak.

But the Team of the Moment collided with the Coach of the Year in college hoops. And the Coach of the Year's kids stole the moment and made it their own -- made it the biggest basketball moment Tennessee has had in a long time.

Bruce Pearl began the night by walking his Volunteers down through the student section, at the suggestion of senior point guard C.J. Watson. Pearl ended it by watching that student section spill onto the floor and engulf his gritty Vols after an 80-76 upset of the Gators.

Undersized forward Dane Bradshaw, who scored the winning layup off a brilliant make-good play by undersized shooting guard Chris Lofton, came out of the hysterical group grope with a long black streak down the front of his white uniform.

"I hugged one of the painted guys," Bradshaw admitted. "Hopefully it'll come out."

If not, they can pay for a new one with the gate receipts from the largest crowd for a Tennessee men's game in 15 years (24,011). They've fallen in love with this 12-3 team that embodies everything the football Vols did not last fall: heart, grit, unity and dramatic overachievement.

When Watson launched himself over press row chasing a loose ball in the first half, the response was a standing ovation. The attitude is fully appreciated, even at a school that has always loved the pointed ball most.

UT athletic historian Haywood Harris, who has seemingly been around Knoxville since General Neyland was a corporal, was asked the last time Big Orange basketball caused such a collective tizzy.

"Back in the Mears Era," Harris said. "Not since '76, probably."

Those were the days of the Ernie and Bernie Show, when Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King were lighting up the SEC. Thirty years is a long time in a place that takes it sports as seriously as Tennessee does.

Fame has been fleeting during the past three decades. After athletic director Doug Dickey fired Don DeVoe in 1989, he embarked on a string of unsuccessful hires: Wade Houston, Kevin O'Neill, Jerry Green, Buzz Peterson. Finally, Dickey's replacement, Mike Hamilton, stepped in last spring and got it right by hiring Pearl.

"Last spring when I was sitting with Bruce in Chicago [interviewing him for this job], I told him, 'This place is ready to explode with the right coach,'" Hamilton said. "We just haven't given our fans too much to be excited about. We can win championships here. We do it in every other sport."

Pearl has certainly brought championship-level charisma and community relations to this job. He won't just shake the hands and kiss the babies. He'll change the babies and burp them if you ask him to.

"He's been somewhat of an evangelist, a circuit-riding preacher," Hamilton said. "He's connected with the fan base."

Pearl connected with the fan base by making roughly 200 speaking engagements during the offseason. He connected with an elementary school crowd of about 600 kids Friday. And he connected with the students camped outside the arena Saturday afternoon, buying them pizzas and delivering an A-list rah-rah speech.

But there are a lot of coaches who can win the press conferences and pep rallies, then fall short at game time. Pearl is not one of those guys, having gotten this team off to an 8-0 start that included a rout of Texas in Austin. With two wins over top-five teams, it would take a major collapse for Tennessee not to make the NCAA Tournament field for the first time since 2001.

All this began when Pearl connected with his most important constituency -- the players -- immediately. He sold them on a fast, free-wheeling and fearless style of play, convinced them he cared about them -- then kicked their rears all off-season.

Pearl dismissed one player for disciplinary reasons and suspended another, and he's stayed

on their necks about acting right.

"We run 'til we puke when someone misses a class," he said.

The Vols ran enough during off-season conditioning that they don't puke easily these days. This is a team in phenomenal shape, possessing a physical and mental toughness that was infamously lacking under Peterson.

The book on the Vols in previous years was that they'd crack against a rugged opponent or in a tight spot. That book is now out of print.

"I think we've got some tough kids," Hamilton said. "Maybe they weren't showing it. Through his conditioning and off-season work, he's made them tougher."

That toughness made the difference against Florida, because it sure wasn't talent.

Tennessee played most of the game from behind without panicking. And it played most of the game enduring comical physical mismatches, like the 6-foot-4 Bradshaw trying to check Florida's 6-11 Joakim Noah. Despite height and weight disadvantages at almost every position, the Vols actually outrebounded the Gators by five.

Tennessee got 29 points from its bench, including a fierce double-double by forward Andre Patterson; three points and three rebounds from freshman center Ryan Childress (his first SEC points); and four points and some steady play from sophomore point guard Jordan Howell (the foul shot he hit with 90 seconds left for a two-point lead was the first free-throw attempt of his college career).

And the Vols got 29 points, six rebounds, three assists and three steals from spectacular sophomore Chris Lofton. The fact that the Kentucky Mr. Basketball of 2004 went unwanted by both Kentucky and Louisville isn't just a basketball crime; it's a felony. He's been nothing short of brilliant since arriving in Knoxville, and he was brilliant last night.

Lofton knocked down five threes, but showed that his game is far more than stand-still shooting. He's an all-around fine basketball player.

"He's quicker than you think, a better defender than you think, gets to the basket better than you think," Pearl said. "Everybody already knows he can shoot it."

Lofton made the game-winning play on the defensive end. With the game tied and the clock nearing 30 seconds left, he launched a long and unwise 3-pointer that missed. Corey Brewer -- who was spectacular for the Gators despite spraining an ankle in the first half -- grabbed the rebound and sprinted downcourt.

It looked like an easy Florida hoop. The multi-talented Brewer was bearing down on Lofton, the only Vol back, with Noah behind Lofton near the hoop.

But Lofton feinted toward Brewer, forcing a pass toward Noah. Lofton leaped in the air and stole it, took a quick dribble and fired a 40-foot pass to Bradshaw for a cherry-picking layup.

"I got a little tight," Bradshaw said, but he kissed the ball in without incident and the building erupted.

"Thanks for getting me on 'SportsCenter,'" Bradshaw told Lofton.

Tennessee still had to weather a final three-point attempt by Florida's Lee Humphrey -- the leading three-ball shooter in the SEC -- but it fell short. Lofton grabbed the rebound, got fouled, and made two with six seconds left.

All that remained was the court storming -- one of many on 'And One' Saturday in college basketball.

Fans help Vols take a big leap

Pearl notches memorable UT moment in first season

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

Janaury 23, 2006

KNOXVILLE - In the afterglow of Tennessee's 80-76 upset of No. 2-ranked Florida on Saturday, an understandably euphoric Bruce Pearl felt the need to reel himself in.

He was gushing about the wherewithal of his Vols and the contributions from the end of the bench when he mentioned what a wonderful thing it was for a freshman such as Ryan Childress "to be a part of one of the greatest victories in Tennessee history."

Immediately, Pearl thought about what he'd just said.

"I don't know if it is. Strike that," Pearl said motioning to the media. "It was certainly one of the biggest victories in front of the most people."

Pearl understands as well as anyone that one "shot heard around the country" - as he referred to it - doesn't make a program, career or even a season.

Moreover, history will be the judge of where Saturday's takedown of the previously unbeaten Gators ranks among great Tennessee wins.

All that aside, it was a huge step toward returning the Vols' program to respectability and maybe an even bigger step toward making an NCAA Tournament berth in Pearl's first season at UT a reality.

And when it comes to memorable moments in Thompson-Boling Arena history, few have been more electric.

The sellout crowd of 24,011 came early, stayed late and was the kind of factor the men's program at Tennessee could only dream about until this season. It's the third home crowd this season to exceed 21,000, which is what UT had in mind when the arena opened during the 1987-88 season.

The Vols (12-3, 3-1 SEC) go on the road Wednesday night against Mississippi State before coming back home for three games against South Carolina, Vanderbilt and Mississippi.

Pearl was adamant that nothing will change.

"We've got to make sure we stay focused, stay humble and stay hungry because every night in this league is going to be like that."

"The difference is that nobody else has that except us," Pearl said proudly as he pointed in the direction of the arena stands.

Vols have a gem in Pearl

by Kevin Scarbinsky, *Birmingham News*

January 23, 2006

If you're a college basketball coach in the South, the Southeastern Conference or anywhere else, Bruce Pearl is not afraid of you.

But chances are, you're mad at Bruce Pearl.

Consider the new Tennessee head coach's growing enemies' list.

He chapped Memphis coach John Calipari in a heated recruiting battle for a hotshot high school player in Memphis - who signed with Memphis.

He ticked off LSU coach John Brady with a playful gesture to the crowd as he subbed a player late in a game at Baton Rouge - a game LSU won.

And Pearl is sure to hear from SEC Commissioner Mike Slive about the coach's choice of words Saturday afternoon.

Trying to fire up the UT students waiting to enter Thompson-Boling Arena for a big game against unbeaten and second-ranked Florida, Pearl told them, ``This is your team. I'm your coach. And we're going to kick Florida's ..."

He may have been caught up in the moment, but he was caught on tape, and his exhortation became a SportsCenter moment.

His language was politically incorrect, but his prediction was right on the money, and Tennessee 80, Florida 76 became a SportsCenter highlight.

Billy Donovan can't be too pleased about the whole thing himself.

It wasn't that long ago the Florida coach was the flavor of the month. Now it's Pearl taking the SEC by storm, taking down the league's best team, causing Tennessee students to storm the floor.

What happened Saturday night in Knoxville is ominous. A Tennessee team coming off two straight defeats beat a Florida team that had not lost all season in 17 starts.

A Tennessee team that was unranked beat a Florida team poised, after Duke's defeat earlier in the day, to move to the top of the polls for the third time in school history.

A Tennessee team that had not sold out a game in 15 years filled the house and sent everyone home happy.

Phillip Fulmer even showed up. No doubt he marveled at the ability of a UT team to overachieve.

It's easy to get carried away by one big victory. Even Wade Houston once coached the Vols to a win over the No.2 team in the land.

The scary thing about Pearl at Tennessee is he's a known giant-killer at a school that's big enough and rich enough to be almost as good in men's basketball as it is in the women's game.

His Wisconsin-Milwaukee team slayed dragons in last year's NCAA Tournament in Alabama and Boston College. His Tennessee team did it in December at Texas.

And now down goes Florida.

The Vols are almost a cinch to return to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in five years. Pearl is all but a lock to be named SEC coach of the year and contend for national honors.

In this league, the Boston native is a different kind of guy coaching a different kind of game. Call his style the run and shoot.

The Tennessee team is going to run your lips off. The Tennessee coach is going to shoot his mouth off.

He's Nolan Richardson in orange suspenders.

UT's shot heard around country

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News Sentinel*

January 22, 2006

Tennessee's JaJuan Smith plays to the sold-out crowd at Thompson-Boling Arena.Had there been a goal post handy, it would have been torn down and paraded to The Strip.

The pent-up celebration that Tennessee never got to enjoy in a tormented football season came spilling out Saturday night.

The final horn signaled a rush of joyous humanity onto the court at Thompson-Boling Arena, swarming the 94 feet where an upstart team had just fired a shot that coach Bruce Pearl vowed would be heard around the country.

He wasn't just waxing poetic, either.

Tennessee's 80-76 upset of No. 2 Florida did several things, all of them important in the big scheme of things.

First of all, give the Gators the top billing they deserve. For a few hours Saturday they were the nation's No. 1 team-in-waiting.

They answered the tip-off the only undefeated team left from Providence to Pepperdine after both No. 9 Pitt and No. 1 Duke went down in flames during the afternoon.

Pearl described the Vols' win as a "real good night" for the SEC. You'd have a hard time selling that one in Gainesville at the moment.

What Pearl meant was that it's a healthy thing for the SEC to have teams like UT rise up

out of mediocrity (or worse) and make themselves heard.

These Vols will be heard, loud and clear.

It's dicey to say a team has clinched an NCAA tournament bid before the Super Bowl is even played, but Tennessee is undeniably barreling toward the bracket with a head of steam.

This was bigger than beating Texas in December. This was beating the best team in your league.

And there's another reason this one was big. Make that 24,011 reasons.

The largest men's crowd since 1991 left feeling vindicated for its faith in this team.

They'll come back again.

"The students were talking about it all week," said junior Dane Bradshaw. "It was just like a football game."

The football coach was even there. Phillip Fulmer sat close behind the UT bench.

"He gave me some confidence to hang in there," said Pearl.

Pat Summitt was there, too. The necktie Pearl wore was a present from the coach with 900 career victories.

"I wasn't sure it had any wins left in it after all the wins she's had," quipped Pearl.

A lot of folks wondered if the Vols had a win in them at the end of this, their toughest week.

They fought the good fight at both LSU and Memphis, but didn't have the horses to close the deal.

They closed this deal thanks to the bench.

JaJuan Smith snapped a brief slump with 10 points and six rebounds. Andre Patterson's 12 points and 10 boards were vital.

But this time, help also came from the far end of the bench.

Freshman Ryan Childress got a lot done in only six minutes. He grabbed three rebounds and hit three free throws. He also drew two charges, one of which elicited a technical foul on Florida coach Billy Donovan.

Jordan Howell ran the offense after C.J. Watson fouled out with 2:53 left and didn't miss a beat. He even hit the first free throw of his career to give UT a 76-74 lead with 90 seconds to play.

Finally, in their direst moment, the Vols got a heckuva defensive play from Mr. Offense.

Chris Lofton's 29 points might have gone for naught had he not picked off Corey Brewer's pass to thwart a sure-thing Florida fast break in the final half-minute.

Lofton not only got the steal, but fired long to Bradshaw for the layup to break a 76-76 tie.

"After the play," said Bradshaw, "I hugged him and said, 'You just got me on (ESPN) SportsCenter.' "

You're going to be seeing more of the Vols on SportsCenter. Get used to it.

Family shared in Pearl move

By Jesse Smithey, *Knoxville News Sentinel*

January 21, 2006

The level of respect University of Tennessee athletic director Mike Hamilton carries for Bruce Pearl is so high that even gravity is having trouble keeping it in check.

No more was that apparent than at Thursday's Big Orange TipOff Club meeting at Calhoun's on the River, where Hamilton lauded Pearl's coaching abilities along with his sincere family-first attitude.

Hamilton introduced Pearl and gave the audience insight into some of the intimate moments of the UT courtship with Pearl, which occurred during last year's NCAA men's basketball tournament.

"Remember, he and I had never met," Hamilton told the crowd. "One of the very first things he ever said when we sat down to talk, he said, 'Hey. I just want to share something with you. I haven't really spent a lot of time with my family talking about this.'

"Certainly (his wife) Kim knew. He said, 'We talked about it this morning, and Stephen (Pearl's eldest son) is getting ready to be a senior in high school, and his basketball career is really important to him. And, it was a very emotional morning for us. I told him that if this wasn't the right thing for him and for our family, and if he couldn't go into this with a full commitment like the rest of our family, then I'd call you back -- my family is the most important thing to me -- and tell you I wouldn't be able to come to the interview.'

"Stephen obviously said, 'Dad, I want you to go to the interview.' And he came to the interview."

Hamilton went on, and Pearl's emotions became obvious. Kim, in support, rubbed his back as he downed ice water to aid in tear repressment.

"For me, those next three hours told me that Bruce Pearl was supposed to be our coach. ... All that I had been told by the folks that I had talked to in basketball, I saw unfold in those three hours."

What followed was Hamilton's one-liner to give the audience Pearl, his pearl.

"There's an eBay commercial that's been running during Christmas," Hamilton said. "I don't know if you've seen it or not. But it says, 'Whatever it is, eBbay has it.' Well, I'm going to tell you I want to change it to: 'Whatever it is, Bruce Pearl has it.'"

Wowed, Pearl shared his thanks for the intro then his thoughts on his hiring at UT.

"I don't mind Mike sharing that," Pearl said. "But that was a very emotional time for us, for our family. It was a family decision, and I'm blessed for having this opportunity."

Before his emotions began to resurface, Pearl quickly leaned on his ability to create laughter.

"I don't have a speech today," he said. "Because I have to ask you this question: Would you rather have me watching Florida tape or preparing a speech?"

But Pearl later expressed his sentiments for Hamilton's understanding.

"He (Hamilton) knew it was emotional for me," Pearl said. "He made some really good decisions. He said, 'Listen, if your heart's not into it -- I need somebody, who this is gonna be their heart, their soul, their everything. You gotta be ready to take this move. I don't want you to come down for an interview, don't get on that plane, unless you're willing to take this job.'

"Kim and I really had to decide before our visit, because I wasn't going to come down here unless I was prepared to take this job. It was such a difficult time, because you're beholden to the players who got you to where you were. And in coaching, it's all about we; it's all about the team. So, it was very difficult."

Mixed amongst his hiring's anecdotes, Pearl covered every topic from former UT announcer John Ward to Lady Vols freshman basketball star Candace Parker, who dates UT basketball player Stanley Asumnu.

"All Pat Summitt asked of me is to please don't let Stanley break up with her during the course of her season," Pearl joked.

At his allotted speaking time's end, Pearl finally offered his deepest gratitude to his wife.

"I can't talk about Kim, and Kim knows this," Pearl said. "When I talk about her I get emotional. Because, you just can't believe how much they've had to put up with. "

Then, like before, Pearl promptly exchanged his heart-felt emotion for laughter.

"I don't apologize for it, because for the first time in my life I'm finally getting paid well for this!"

He expounded further.

"We bought a bigger house than we've ever lived in. We've had furniture since we got married. All the furniture and stuff we had, we've had since we got married. Naturally, Kim finds Braden's (furniture store).

"I mean she buys furniture for almost every room in the house! I said, 'Honey, it's not how much we make; it's how long we've been making it! You've been poor for 44 years and been rich for six weeks!' "

With the crowd laughing, Pearl unexpectedly dove back down into his heart -- for his wife, for his family and for Hamilton.

"But I appreciate Kim," he said. "You know what? As long as you got family with you, there's nothing you can't do. And I got a lot of family in this room, and a lot of friends and neighbors. ...

"I go to work every day trying to reward that man (Hamilton) for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime."

Guess the respect level is pretty high both ways.

Vols Coach Building A Winner And A Following

Skip directly to the full story.

By Andy Staples, *Tampa Tribune*

January 21, 2006

GAINESVILLE - Bruce Pearl's voice booms over highlight clips of the University of Tennessee men's basketball team playing last season in a one-third full Thompson-Boling Arena.

Then, the promotional video from Tennessee's basketball Web site cuts to Pearl. The Volunteers' first-year coach is sitting in the Tennessee locker room. He makes a prediction.

"When we win, only Kentucky might surpass us in attendance in the SEC," Pearl says.

When those words passed Pearl's lips, he probably didn't think the Vols would prove him right so soon. Earlier this week, Pearl said he expects more than 24,000 to pack the arena in Knoxville, Tenn., when Tennessee (11-3, 2-1 SEC) tries to hand No. 2 Florida (17-0, 3-0) its first loss of the season.

"[Tonight] will be a great atmosphere," Pearl said. "It will be as good as any atmosphere in the country."

After growing accustomed to playing before thousands of empty orange seats, Pearl's players probably never imagined anyone saying such a thing about their home arena. In fact, junior forward Dane Bradshaw seemed stunned that 21,612 turned out to see Tennessee beat Georgia on Jan. 11. Bradshaw told The (Nashville) Tennessean he'd only seen a few crowds that size in Thompson-Boling.

"But they were wearing blue," he said, referring to the Kentucky fans who make an annual trek to see the Wildcats face one of their closest SEC neighbors.

Bradshaw has a point. Thompson-Boling looks like an airplane hangar planted across Neyland Drive from the Tennessee River. About the only events that can sell it out are a Tennessee-Kentucky men's game, a Tennessee-Connecticut women's game or a concert by native son Kenny Chesney.

Tennessee's media guide bills Thompson-Boling as the nation's largest facility built specifically for basketball, and local legend has it that it was built so large because many Tennessee officials' greatest wish was that the Vols' home have at least one more seat than Kentucky's Rupp Arena.

But Kentucky usually gives its fans a reason to fill Rupp. Pearl took over a program that hadn't produced an NCAA Tournament team in five seasons.

So Pearl went to work. According the Memphis Commercial-Appeal, Pearl spoke to more

than 200 groups between taking the job and the start of the conference schedule.

Sounds like another coach who took over a basketball program with marginal tradition at a school known as a football powerhouse.

When Billy Donovan took over at Florida in 1996, he spoke to anyone who would listen. He remembers going to Orlando to speak to 15 people that first year. He and his assistants played a campus intramural team to drum up student support to help fill an almost empty O'Connell Center.

Like Pearl, Donovan also brought a pressing, running style fans enjoyed watching. Most importantly, Donovan built a winner. Now, the O'Connell Center ranks among the nation's toughest places to play.

Donovan believes Pearl arrived at the right time. While Lon Kruger's recruiting had slipped and left Donovan a wreck of a team, former Tennessee coach Buzz Peterson left behind a stable of talented veterans who have come close to making the NCAA Tournament.

Point guard C.J. Watson is a four-year starter, sophomore guard Chris Lofton is one of the nation's best 3-point shooters and the 6-foot-4 Bradshaw - who usually is quite a bit shorter and lighter than the power forward he must guard - has provided a face for Tennessee's fearless style of play.

Combining that talent with Pearl's style and energy has produced more wins than expected and a team that probably has a better chance to beat Florida than anyone the Gators have played this season.

"When you can win, there's a newness to it," Donovan said. "People are happy. The players are rejuvenated. The fans are rejuvenated."

It's hard to prepare for unorthodox Vols

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News Sentinel*

January 23, 2006

They're unorthodox. They make you play out of your comfort zone.

They're talented and experienced. They shoot too well.

Monday's SEC basketball teleconference turned into a forum on why Tennessee is having such great success in its first year under Bruce Pearl.

This was, after all, a team that went 14-17 under Buzz Peterson, lost two of its leading scorers and didn't add an impact newcomer.

With Pearl at the helm, the Vols are 12-3, 3-1 SEC, and have knocked off two of the best teams in the nation, Texas and Florida.

UT is essentially playing four guards and one big man while pressing and forcing the tempo. Moving former point guard Dane Bradshaw to power forward has produced confounding results, to say the least.

Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings saw it coming. He was an assistant at Purdue when Pearl was an assistant under his mentor Tom Davis at Iowa.

"They force you to do things that go against some of the principles you teach and commonly taught principles," Stallings said. "It makes them different and it makes them effective.

"That's one of the big challenges of playing against Tennessee, or when he was at Milwaukee or at Iowa. ... It's a lot different than how a lot of people coach and it's very effective."

Stallings hasn't faced UT yet. Georgia's Dennis Felton has.

"One of their biggest strengths is their unique, non-traditional lineup," said Felton. "They spread the floor and ... when they have (Andre) Patterson in the game, that's certainly five 17-foot shooters and good drivers."

The 6-foot-4 Bradshaw, who leads the SEC in assist/turnover ratio (66 to 22), has been surprisingly effective as a rebounder. He ranks 14th in the league at 6.4 per game.

"He is not allowing himself to be taken advantage of because he plays so hard," said Felton. "He's doing whatever he has to do to compete guarding bigger men, whether it's hitting 'em, holding 'em, being really rugged, just being very active."

Which is nothing new to South Carolina's Dave Odom.

"He's been a thorn in the opponents' side ever since he arrived," said Odom. "He's a pain. He's a pain to play against.

"Because he understands as well as anybody in the league what his strengths are and what his team needs. And he knows how to put those qualities together and make the best of it.

"(Chris) Lofton shoots it, (C.J.) Watson controls it, but Bradshaw makes it go. He really does."

Lofton shoots it so well and so deep, Odom said he's about to change his mind and favor moving back the 3-point line.

"I watched the (Florida-UT) game on tape," Odom said. "Lee Humphrey could not have done a better job.

"He's smelling the guy's breath and (Lofton) still makes a shot."

Florida's Billy Donovan doesn't buy the theory that Pearl is working miracles with a bunch of rejects.

He said Peterson didn't leave a bare cupboard and notes UT starts two seniors, two juniors and a sophomore.

"So many teams have had departures and have had to rely on youth," Donovan said. "They're the one team that has a very good level of talent and a good level of experience.

"Those two things combined make them a very good team."

Brewer Gimpy: Corey Brewer is questionable at best for Florida's visit to South Carolina on Wednesday. Brewer returned to the game at UT on Saturday after a first-half ankle sprain but didn't practice Monday and wasn't going to today.

"I'll be very surprised if he played on Wednesday," said Donovan.

Teed Off: Working the terrific UT-Memphis game on Wednesday wasn't the highlight of official John Hampton's week. During Houston's game at UAB on Saturday, Hampton called a technical foul, believing that Houston coach Tom Penders was overreacting to a whistle against the Cougars.

Hampton didn't understand that Penders was sprawled on the court because he had passed out, the result of a long-time heart issue. Even though Penders was carted off on a stretcher, the technical stood.

UAB hit both technical free throws and eventually won 82-79. Penders returned in the second half.

Open Records: The NCAA is making its RPI rankings public on its Web site, starting Feb. 2. The index is one factor the selection committee uses to pick at-large teams for the tournament. Several RPI rankings are available on other Web sites, but this is new ground for the NCAA's official formula.

Undersized Bradshaw key player at Tennessee

By Victoria Sun, *Cincinnati Post*

January 24, 2006

LEXINGTON, Ky. - There are undersized power forwards.

And then there is Tennessee's Dane Bradshaw, perhaps the most vertically challenged 4-man in college basketball.

It's not unusual to see the 6-foot-4 junior banging inside against bigger and taller players.

He took a swift elbow to the face against Memphis' big men, has battled the Texas twosome of P.J. Tucker and LaMarcus Aldridge and will continue to play out of position as long as the Vols need him.

Most recently Bradshaw kept talented 6-11 Florida sophomore Joakim Noah (11 points, eight rebounds) in check to help the Vols upset the previously undefeated Gators in a wild, 80-76 victory Saturday night.

Bradshaw's play has been a big reason the 19th-ranked Vols are off to a 12-3 start after winning 14 games all last season.

"He's been a thorn in an opponent's side since he got here," South Carolina head coach Dave Odom said. "He's a pain to play against because he understands what his strengths are, what his team needs and he knows how to put those qualities together.

"Bradshaw makes it (Tennessee) go."

Personnel changes forced first-year Tennessee head coach Bruce Pearl to shuffle Bradshaw from backup point guard to his current position.

Pearl dismissed forward Jemere Hendrix from the team for a violation of team rules, leaving him with few options up front.

"Dane is a tough kid and he just plays so much bigger than his size," Pearl said. "He told me he wanted to compete for the starting point guard position in the spring.

"As we got down to the fall, it got to a point where Dane said to me, 'Play me where you need me.' That's what type of kid he is."

Bradshaw isn't afraid of contact and rarely backs down, no matter how much size he gives up.

He developed his attitude while growing up with older brothers Cody, who is 6-8, 6-5 Ryan and sister Bridgett, who is 5-10. Dane would compete against his taller brothers in front of his house for respect and bragging rights.

"It was always very physical out in the driveway," said Bradshaw, whose mom Linda was the MVP of her high school team. "There were many time they'd beat up on me and block my shot.

"There was this long hill and the ball would roll down it and no one would want to get it. They'd block it all the way down the hill and I'd have to go get it crying."

Since becoming what he calls a point-forward, Bradshaw has been causing matchup problems for the opposition.

During the team's 88-79 loss at Memphis, then ranked No. 4, Bradshaw more than held his own against the Tigers' 6-9 Shawne Williams and 6-9 Joey Dorsey.

Bradshaw matched Williams' 21 points and 14 rebounds with 21 points, 10 rebounds and five steals in front of roughly 60 friends and family members who welcomed him home.

"I just felt very fortunate because that was a game I was hoping to get to play before the end of my career," said Bradshaw, who is averaging 7.5 points and leads the Vols with 6.3 rebounds. "That was my first, last and only chance for me to perform in front of my home crowd.

"To put up those numbers was special for me, but I wish it could have turned out into a win for us."

Having Bradshaw at the 4 spot has given the Vols another solid ball-handler to execute the offense. He has three more assists (66) than Tennessee's designated floor general, talented senior C.J. Watson (63).

When Bradshaw committed to Tennessee the January of his junior year at White Station High School in Memphis, the state's Gatorade player of the year envisioned becoming the Vols' point guard of the future.

But he never blossomed while spending his freshman and sophomore years playing behind Watson, second on the team with 15.9 ppg.

So when Pearl approached him about becoming the starting power forward, Bradshaw, who had career averages of 3.2 points and 2.2 rebounds leaped at the opportunity.

"That was in the preseason when everybody was fighting for a starting position so it was another position I had a chance at so it worked out for me," Bradshaw said.

Pearl pulsates Vols' passions

But school is fined for celebration after Florida upset

By Tony Barnhart, The Atlanta *Journal-Constitution*

January 24, 2006

Knoxville - The scene outside Thompson-Boling Arena will never be mistaken for Krzyzewskiville, the vast tent city that magically sprouts up before Duke home games.

But when Tennessee students camp out on Friday night to get in line for a men's basketball game on Saturday night, a cultural phenomenon is clearly at work.

Kyle Hixson and Bryan Biss, two UT students who braved the elements, were first through the turnstiles last weekend before Tennessee played No. 2 Florida. They were rewarded with courtside seat and joined a sold-out Thompson-Boling Arena of 24,011 to watch the Vols hand the Gators their first loss.

Now let's see if we have this right.

Camping out? For men's basketball? At Tennessee?

You bet, Hixson said.

"No, this ain't Duke," he said. "But it's gonna be."

Hope has finally returned to Tennessee basketball in a perpetual ball of energy named Bruce Pearl, the Volunteers' first-year coach.

"It has been an unbelievable thing to watch," Tennessee athletics director Mike Hamilton said. "I can't really explain what it is, but whatever it is, Bruce has it. Whatever it is that he's selling, our student-athletes, our students and fans are really buying it."

There was really no way to explain what happened here last Saturday. Prior to the Florida game, Tennessee was 11-3, unranked and coming off two straight road losses. Hardly the stuff of social change.

"I'm proud of what this team has done but it really doesn't add up to putting 24,000 people in the building," Pearl said. "They aren't coming out just because we're winning. There is a lot more going on here."

The energy in Thompson-Boling Arena was almost 10 months in the making. Since Pearl agreed to replace the popular Buzz Peterson on March 25, 2005, he's been on a frantic pace to sell his vision of what Tennessee basketball could become.

He's spoken to more than 200 booster clubs, Lions clubs, garden clubs - any kind of club that would let him talk. He spoke to between 15 of the 20 freshmen orientation groups at UT last summer. He spoke to the band, then asked Hamilton to triple the size of the group that plays at Tennessee home games. He speaks to local elementary schools and leaves a block of tickets that the parents quickly snap up.

And when he has a few free minutes, like he did last Friday, he and Pat Summitt, Tennessee's Hall of Fame women's coach, go over to a school cafeteria to drum up support.

"Either he is the most organized man in the world or he never sleeps," said Bob Kesling, the radio voice of the Vols. "There is not a day that goes by that he is not talking to somebody about Tennessee basketball. He's really amazing."

Pearl, who posted a dozen 20-win seasons in 13 years as coach at Southern Indiana at Wisconsin-Milwaukee, heard all the negatives when he took the UT job: the arena was too big . . . men's basketball would always play third fiddle to football and Summitt's Lady Vols . . . the students just didn't care.

What Pearl saw was a school where 19 of 20 sports went to postseason play last season, men's basketball the lone exception. After working with tiny budgets in his other two coaching stops, Pearl saw a school with virtually unlimited resources willing to back up his talk with cash. If Tennessee can put 108,000 into Neyland Stadium on Saturdays in the fall, certainly he could find 20,000 who cared about men's basketball.

Pearl insists that the passion for men's basketball at Tennessee has always been there beneath the surface. All he did was tap into it. He is quick to invoke the name of Ray Mears, the former coach whose flair for promotion was light years ahead of his time.

"What's happening here has happened before," Pearl said. "When [announcer] John Ward says, "It's football time in Tennessee," people forget that he first said that about basketball. The term 'Big Orange Country'? That was coined by Ray Mears, a basketball coach."

Pearl, a 1982 Boston College grad, also isn't afraid to ruffle a few feathers as he preaches the gospel of Tennessee basketball. He has already had a dust-up with Memphis coach John Calipari over recruiting in that talent-rich area of the state. He rattled swords with LSU's John Brady during a game at Baton Rouge on Jan. 14.

This has only served to further endear Pearl to the Tennessee fan base.

"In what has become a pretty politically correct world of coaching," Hamilton said, "this guy has some personality."

Tennessee's Pearl fires up fans as well as team

By Jeff Rabjohns, *Indianapolis Star*

January 25, 2006

When Tennessee's Bruce Pearl was in his first head coaching job at Southern Indiana, he was as well-known in NCAA Division II circles for his charisma as his coaching.

Not only did he rally fan support and booster dollars for his program in Evansville, Ind., he would speak to opponents' booster clubs prior to road games in an effort to build enthusiasm at those schools.

Now that he's at a major program, his infectious energy has a national stage.

In his latest accomplishment, Pearl led his Tennessee team to a victory over unbeaten and second-ranked Florida on "Upset Saturday," a day when the final three unbeatens lost, including No. 1 Duke.

Long before Saturday's 80-76 victory over visiting Florida in front of 24,011 fans, Pearl was roaming the state and the campus, selling his program like a revival preacher. Tennessee, which allows students free admission to basketball games through an activity fee, last year averaged 575 students per game. So far this year, it's at 4,500 per game.

"He's been nothing short of phenomenal," Tennessee athletic director Mike Hamilton said. "With the students on campus, with the community, with the media, with every constituency group he deals with, he's done a great job."

Tennessee students rushed the court at the end of the game, prompting a chiding from Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley for a violation of Southeastern Conference rules and causing a minor flap. The SEC fined the school $5,000 Tuesday for the violation.

It was the second major victory for Tennessee (12-3) this season, joining a 95-78 win at then-No. 6 Texas, which had been ranked as high as No. 2 this season.

"The fact that we were involved in such a big day in college basketball with three upsets, it does put Tennessee on the map," said Pearl, who led Southern Indiana to the 1995 Division II national title before taking Wisconsin-Milwaukee to the Sweet Sixteen last March. "Keeping it in perspective, this win counts just about as much as any other in the SEC. If we continue to win enough games to be a candidate for playing for the national championship in the NCAA Tournament, then this one will mean a lot."

Prior to this season, Tennessee had one crowd of more than 20,000 this decade. The Volunteers have had three of more than 21,000 this year. Thompson said ticket sales and concession sales prior to the Florida game already were ahead of last year's total, crediting Pearl with reviving a program he said "needed a reason to explode."

"He's spoken to over 200 groups in our state," Thompson said. "If there are five ladies in a quilting club that he thought might buy basketball tickets, he'll talk to them."

Pearl of wisdom

Antics, wins make Vols coach SEC lightning rod

By Ian R. Rapoport, *Jackson Clarion Ledger*

STARKVILLE - Bruce Pearl has stormed into the Southeastern Conference with the subtlety of a chainsaw. He's a first-year coach at Tennessee, leading one of the nation's hottest teams and drawing a reaction everywhere he goes.

He has been called classless by a rival coach. He has shamelessly played to an opponent's student section, even during a crushing loss. He displays the sideline histrionics of a Broadway-bound thespian.

And, Pearl has launched a revival of Volunteers basketball long awaited by his win-starved, orange-clad public.

The SEC has a new lightning rod for attention, a new whipping boy for opposing student sections, and he comes to Starkville tonight when the No. 19 Vols (12-3, 3-1 SEC) play Mississippi State (11-7, 1-4) at 7 p.m.

Consider the fans at Humphrey Coliseum ready.

"The more flamboyant and the more emotional (an opposing coach) is, the more fun it is for us to heckle," said Chris Fowler, president of the MSU fan group called Rick's Rowdies. "Of course, we really just want to support MSU. But ... with the year Tennessee is having, and with Bruce Pearl being talked about a lot, we're looking forward to it."

The UT fans are so gaga over their own program that some of the 24,011 fans rushed the floor of Thompson-Boling Arena when UT knocked off No. 2 Florida on Saturday night.

It drew a $5,000 fine from the conference for an unsportsmanlike violation.

"(The fans) were off-the-charts terrific," Pearl told reporters. "I'm not upset with what happened at all. ... But we can't have that happen again."

The Vols arrive fresh off creating the second-greatest moment in Tennessee basketball history, according to *Knoxville News-Sentinel* of Nashville. They knocked off unbeaten Florida and did it on the same day the Gators had their first chance to ascend in the polls as the nation's best team.

"They are one of the hottest teams in America," MSU coach Rick Stansbury said. "I don't think anybody expected them to be where they are right now."

As David Climer, columnist for *Knoxville News-Sentinel*, wrote, "Pass the orange Kool-Aid. Make it a double."

They are going nuts in Knoxville right now, as a program that has long been one of the nation's most enigmatic appears to have found its pot of gold under an orange-tinted rainbow.

Pearl, who guided Wisconsin-Milwaukee to two NCAA Tournament bids in four years

before taking the UT job, hasn't done it quietly.

The most notable incident came during a loss to LSU, when the Tigers student section chanted for him to put forward Dane Bradshaw into the game. When Pearl did, he raised Bradshaw's hand aloft, celebrating the heckling.

Following the game LSU coach John Brady ranted along press row that Pearl should "show a little class."

Classy or not, he has won.

Pearl, whose team upset No. 6 Texas in Austin earlier in the season, took over a team that hasn't reached the NCAAs since 2001 and hasn't had prolonged success since the Ernie and Bernie Show 30 years ago, when Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King were the talk of Knoxville.

That's why he pointed to tonight's game as a possible benchmark.

"Mississippi State has been places over the last four years that we haven't been," Pearl said. "Four straight 20-win seasons, four straight NCAA Tournament appearances. They are in a territory Tennessee basketball hasn't reached. We have a lot to play for."

Yet after losing their six top scorers and rebounders from last year, the Bulldogs appear to have fallen from grace.

With all this panache, Tennessee and its sideshow arrive tonight to play a Bulldogs team that has lost four straight SEC games for the first time since 1999-2000. While Tennessee is rising, MSU is falling, making one wonder if the teams are passing each other going in opposite directions.

The Bulldogs hope not.

"It is kind of shaky for us right now," MSU junior Dietric Slater said. "We really don't know what to expect. But we got to find something to do (to win). Fast."

Freshman Jamont Gordon said he's not worried about the team's direction because "we just can't get down. We'll come back."

Players were troubled by a 28-point loss to Vanderbilt Saturday, yet there was a twinge of optimism.

"We're going to play through it," sophomore forward Charles Rhodes said. "I know it. It's just, we got to keep our heads up. It's frustrating. I'm frustrated. But we're going to learn from our mistakes."

As Stansbury points out, dealing with four straight losses is uncharted territory. The upperclassmen are used to cruising into NCAA Tournaments and the freshmen all come from winning high school programs. That's why maintaining the team's psyche is key.

"We've got to make sure the guys who've been around a little keep things in perspective," Stansbury said.

That perspective may be challenged by Pearl and his Vols.

A night Vols fans will long remember

By Darren Epps, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

January 22, 2006

KNOXVILLE -- A football school they call this place, but it was football coach Phillip Fulmer trying to grab basketball coach Bruce Pearl by his orange suspenders as Pearl exited the Thompson-Boling Arena floor three-fourths covered by pompom waving students.

Pearl embraced Fulmer and his wife, who sat right behind the bench, then pumped both fists in the air as orange and white streamers floated from the ceiling to his feet. The fans who remained in their seats instead of spilling onto the court screamed his name. No one left the building.

On this night, to the uninformed observer, Tennessee was a great basketball school.

More than 24,000 fans watched the smaller, less-talented Vols dash Florida's shot at a No. 1 national ranking with an improbable 80-76 win Saturday night, Tennessee's first win over a second-ranked team since 1993.

Fans grew so exuberant early in the game they threw objects on the floor, prompting Pearl to grab a courtside microphone and warn the crowd of 24,011 -- the largest since 1991 -- to "show some class, because this is a great night." He was right.

Students camped out in tents the previous night to secure seats underneath the basket. There were scalpers lining the streets, no parking for miles and painted chests in the stands.

For a basketball game. A men's basketball game. At Tennessee.

"It's a night our students will remember for a long, long time," Pearl said. "It's part of the college experience in a great college town."

A college town, not just a football town anymore.

"The last couple of days, it was great to see the students prepare as if this was a football game," guard Dane Bradshaw said.

Tennesseans are embracing the Vols for reasons other than the wins -- they should be ranked in this week's poll -- and Pearl's high-profile visibility in the community. They're a lovable bunch who continue to overcome physical limitations.

The Vols entered the court through the stands two minutes before the game, slapping hands with the fans in the aisles. UT's Dane Bradshaw, all 6-foot-4 of him, guarded 6-9 Al Horford and 6-11 Joakim Noah. Horford and Noah each scored 11 points, below their season averages, and each grabbed just one more rebound than Bradshaw.

Chris Lofton, the lightly recruited guard out of Maysville, Ky. -- you think Tubby Smith wishes he offered him now? -- poured in 29 points. Former walk-on JaJuan Smith from McMinn County added 10, including a crucial putback to put UT ahead 75-72 with 2:19 left. Gangly sophomore Jordan Howell, who entered the game when C.J. Watson fouled out, made the first free throw of his career to give the Vols a 76-74 lead.

And when Lofton stole a Corey Brewer pass just moments after taking a long, ill-advised 3-pointer with less than 30 seconds remaining in a tie game, he threw it ahead to an open Bradshaw for a layup to give Tennessee a 78-76 lead. The crowd exploded with deafening noise, shaking all the women's basketball banners hanging from the rafters.

But this isn't a women's basketball school anymore, either.

"I knew if we could just step this program up to the next level, the city would embrace us," said Bradshaw, his jersey black from hugging one of the painted fans.

Soon enough, football-starved fans will return to following recruiting and examining the number of stars for each Tennessee commitment.

For one night, the only relevant stars were on the basketball court.

Resurgent Vols just 'let 'er rip'

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News Sentinel*

January 26, 2006

STARKVILLE, Miss. -- With more than a minute on the clock Wednesday night, Ben Bosse pulled up and let 'er rip.

Next trip down the floor, Tanner Wild eyed the rim and let 'er rip.

Ben Bosse and Tanner Wild, letting 'em rip in an SEC road game. Think about it.

If you know your Tennessee basketball roster, it suggests either a very hopeless scenario or a very good one.

If you know your Tennessee basketball history, it's more likely the former than the latter.

But the times, they are a changing.

"During the last part of the game," said junior Dane Bradshaw, "I told the guys on the bench, don't take this for granted because it's a been a while since we had this kind of situation."

Here's the situation:

The Vols clobbered Mississippi State, 88-65, at Humphrey Coliseum, the program's fattest winning margin in an SEC road game in eight years.

They're 13-3, 4-1 SEC, and coming home for a three-game stand in suddenly energized Thompson-Boling Arena.

As athletic director Mike Hamilton reminded the team in the locker room after the game, the Vols have matched their SEC road-win total from last year.

Tennessee won two SEC road games last year. They had to fight tooth and nail to the wire in each.

Wednesday, the Vols took the fight out of a struggling Mississippi State team early. So much for any fears of a letdown from the huge win over Florida last Saturday.

"We lifted weights at 6:45 Monday (morning)," said senior Andre Patterson, "by then I think we had got all of it (the Florida celebration) out. It was all about Mississippi State."

Apparently.

UT hit seven of its first 10 shots, never trailed for a second and was up 15 at the half after executing a clinical clock-eating possession that ended with JaJuan Smith draining a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"They've got a great rhythm on that basketball team right now," said an admiring Mississippi State coach Rick Stansbury.

The 15-point margin almost instantly became 19 when the second half resumed.

"We kept making plays," said senior C.J. Watson. "We kept making shots."

Even Ryan Childress. The big freshman's 3-pointer from the corner made it a 20-point game.

A word about this particular juncture is appropriate.

The margin was 16 with 15:22 to play as Watson joined fellow starters Chris Lofton and Patterson on the bench with three fouls.

If State was going to make a run, now was the time. Tennessee was vulnerable and there was plenty of clock left.

Instead, a makeshift lineup that included Childress and Jordan Howell expanded the lead to 21 (66-45) over the ensuing three minutes.

"That just shows you the confidence our guys have coming off the bench," said Bradshaw, "and also the confidence the staff has."

And so the Bulldogs' rally never came. The crowd dispersed and end-of-the-bench practice players like Bosse and Wild get to tell the guys back at the dorm today they let 'er rip in an SEC road game.

It's not unprecedented. Tennessee walk-ons have played in SEC road games before.

But it always meant the Vols were down 20, not up 20.

The old hands like Watson and Bradshaw and Asumnu have been there and done that more times than they care to remember.

This was different, 180 degrees different.

Like Bradshaw said, don't take it for granted.

Love him or hate him, this underdog's on top

By Gregg Doyel, CBS SportsLine.com

January 25, 2006

Bruce Pearl doesn't want you to like him. Not really. Because he knows what it would take.

'I'm pretty passionate, pretty extreme, pretty intense,' Pearl says. (Getty Images)

For one thing he'd have to shut up, and Pearl isn't about to shut up. It's possible he can't shut up. He's a born-again basketball coach, unwilling and probably unable to stop proselytizing about the SEC school that gave him this national pulpit.

For another, he'd have to start losing for you to like him. But check out his resume. Pearl went 231-46 with a Division II championship at Southern Indiana. He went 86-38 with a spot in the 2005 Sweet 16 at UW-Milwaukee. He doesn't lose often, and he didn't come to Tennessee to be another headstone in the Volunteers' coaching graveyard.

"If you're a coach who goes into everybody else's building and always walks away with a loss, you're going to be one of their favorite coaches," Pearl says. "They're going to give you a big hand when you walk out onto the court: 'Happy to see you!'

"Some day that'd be great if they're not happy to see me."

Some day? Right. That day is here.

Less than a year on the job, Pearl is one of the least popular coaches in the SEC. He's talking too much, he's winning too much, and if you're a Vols fan it's beautiful. Pearl has mainlined caffeine into a program that slept in while everyone else was doing calisthenics. Tennessee has 20 Division I athletic programs, 19 of which played in its NCAA tournament last year. The one that didn't? Men's basketball.

"We're the ones that have a lot of catching up to do," he says.

Tennessee's almost there already, with the same core of players -- actually, less than the same core -- that got Buzz Peterson fired. Without graduated scoring leader Scooter McFadgon and dismissed frontcourt sub Jemere Hendrix, Pearl has used his frenzied system to pull off two of the biggest wins of the season: a blowout at No. 6 Texas on Dec. 17 and a win Saturday against No. 2 Florida. In a league full of boring, unwatchable basketball, Tennessee is fun. It's also 13-3 and ranked No. 19 nationally.

"We're slightly ahead of schedule," Pearl says.

That's an understatement. If you didn't recognize it, you're forgiven. Pearl's rarely subtle; a style that has energized Vols fans ... and infuriated everyone else. Pearl already has had an ugly spat with recruit Tyler Smith, whom Pearl refused to release from the scholarship he signed with Peterson; feuded publicly with Memphis coach John Calipari over the recruitment of Memphis signee Willie Kemp; and been blasted by LSU's John Brady for not having "class" after Pearl walked Dane Bradshaw to the scorer's table and raised Bradshaw's arm to the hooting LSU crowd, as if it say, "You want him? Here he is."

Brady thought Pearl was grandstanding. Maybe, but that's Pearl. This is a guy who had his own coach's show at Southern Indiana. Local TV affiliates told him D-II coaches don't get shows, so Pearl did it himself. He bought TV time on an Evansville cable channel, sold the advertising, even turned on the camera.

"The host was Darrin Smith," Pearl says. "One of us would hit play, and then we'd run and sit down and we'd do the show."

Pearl has brought that spunk to Tennessee, where he has averaged one public speaking engagement per day. That includes trips to the student union, where he once urged students to support the UT women's soccer team. He also has tripled the size of the pep band, reconfigured the baseline seating to put students closer to the court, and paraded his team from the concourse to the court, high-fiving the crowd along the way. Tennessee students have reciprocated, camping out for the first time in years before the Florida game. When Pearl heard about that, he bought everyone pizzas. Delivered them himself.

In his orange tie and suspenders, Pearl is the second coming of Tennessee's winningest coach, Ray Mears (1963-77), who founded the term "Big Orange Country" and created the Orange Tie Club. After Mears retired at 47 because of depression, Tennessee went through six coaches in 28 years. Pearl is No. 7. Don't expect No. 8 to show for a while.

As unexpectedly good as this season has been, Pearl expects to be better next year. He says Tennessee could be better at four positions, noting the arrival of heralded frontcourt recruits Wayne Chism and Duke Crews along with the return of Chris Lofton, Major Wingate and Bradshaw. Point guard C.J. Watson graduates, but Pearl recruited Marques Johnson and Josh Tabb to join Lofton and top sub JaJuan Smith in the backcourt.

"The future here is so bright," Pearl says.

Pearl is making himself comfortable in Knoxville. He's even tossing around the word y'all, which he says "is so inclusive." It doesn't sound quite right coming from a Boston native, but no matter. Pearl throws around the words he wants to throw around. Too bad if Calipari or Brady -- or you -- don't like it.

"I'm pretty passionate, pretty extreme, pretty intense," he says. "I guess sometimes I get myself into situations. I do know one thing: Ray Mears was not the SEC's favorite coach, but he was Tennessee's favorite. I want to be Tennessee's favorite coach in men's basketball. If over time I can gain my opponents' respect, that would be important. But I can't worry if they don't like me. I'm not worried about it at all."

Pearl Culture

With an upset of No. 2 Florida, Tennessee and its fiery coach sent a message: It's no longer business as usual in Knoxville

By: Luke Winn, *Sports Illustrated*

January 26, 2006

There was Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl, stalking the sideline last Saturday night in orange suspenders and an orange tie as his Volunteers took on No. 2 Florida, the last undefeated team in the nation. The crowd of 24,011, the largest for a men's basketball game at Thompson-Boling Arena since 1991, included Tennessee's athletic department royalty. Looking on was legendary women's coach Pat Summitt, who earlier in the week had given Pearl the tie he was wearing, along with a note that said, "I'm glad you're here." Behind the Vols' bench was football coach Phil Fulmer, who is no stranger to big-stage battles with the Gators. "It was like having a big brother back there," Pearl says of Fulmer. "He looked at me a couple of times and with his eyes just said, Hang in there, you're doing fine."

Pearl did indeed hang in there, and his team upset Florida 80--76 to improve to 12--3 overall and tie the Gators for first place in the SEC East at 3--1. As a raucous student section some 5,000 strong mobbed the court, it seemed that Tennessee's reeling men's hoops program, which had shuffled through four coaches since 1989, was finally coming to life, with Pearl gleefully administering the smelling salts.

The Volunteers, who struggled to a 14--17 record under Buzz Peterson last season, are thriving with an unheralded cast of little guys: The starting lineup against the Gators had just one player taller than 6'5". (Dane Bradshaw, a converted guard, gave up seven inches to the man he had to defend, 6'11" center Joakim Noah.) But the Vols neutralized Florida's height with Pearl's trademark 1-2-1-1 press, forcing 19 turnovers, and got a game-high 29 points from 6'2" guard Chris Lofton. "We thought if we could get it to be a sloppy game, with our full-court pressure defense, it could be to our advantage," Pearl says.

Says Tom Davis, the Drake coach and Pearl's longtime mentor, "He's an aggressive guy, and that's the style that he coaches. He's been that way since I first knew him as an 18-year-old at Boston College."

That was in 1978, when Davis was the coach at BC and Pearl, a Massachusetts native, tried to walk on to the team. Though Pearl didn't make it as a player, Davis kept him on as a student assistant. Pearl had an evangelical style even then, promoting the team to the student body, hosting recruits and even serving a one-game stint as the Eagles' mascot.

After 14 years as Davis's assistant at BC, Stanford and Iowa, Pearl was ready to be a head coach, but a whistle-blowing incident while he was at Iowa apparently held him back. (In 1989 Pearl secretly taped a conversation in which forward Deon Thomas suggested he had received $80,000 and a Chevrolet Blazer to attend Illinois. Pearl turned the tape over to the NCAA, which found the Illini not guilty of any wrongdoing in the recruitment of Thomas.)

Pearl ended up at Division II Southern Indiana in 1992, and in '95 he led the Eagles to a national title. He then moved on to Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which he took to the NCAA tournament twice in four years, reaching the Sweet 16 last March. And the Vols appear headed for their first trip to the Big Dance since 2001.

Though he's now in charge of a major-conference program, Pearl has not changed his in-your-face style. He had the seats removed from the Rocky Top Rowdies' section to amp up the students' energy. And in just his second conference road game, an 88--74 loss at LSU, he riled Tigers fans by raising Bradshaw's hand like a prizefighter's during a late-game substitution, causing LSU coach John Brady to say, "Tell their coach to show some class."

But Pearl is unapologetic about making waves. "If you're the favorite coach of opposing fans, chances are you haven't beaten them very often," he says. "Someday wouldn't it be a wonderful thing if I was the least popular coach in the SEC?"

Vols now bite like great Dane

Position change fires up Bradshaw

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

January 28, 2006

KNOXVILLE - Dane Bradshaw's reputation is growing.

He's the player opposing fans love to hate.

He's the player referees are warning before games not to incite fans.

He's the player making a strong bid as the most improved in the Southeastern Conference.

In short - hard as it is for some to believe - he's the face of a Tennessee basketball team that has clawed its way to the top of the Eastern Division standings.

"I know this is a fairly bold statement and not something I would say lightly, but if there were a vote taken by media and/or coaches in this conference at this time, I think without any question that Dane Bradshaw would be the MVP of this league," South Carolina Coach Dave Odom said. "I think he's playing that well."

For those with short memories, this is the same Bradshaw who looked woefully out of place his first two seasons as a lead guard or combo guard in the SEC.

Former Coach Buzz Peterson was ridiculed by fans and media for even signing Bradshaw, especially with the popular perception that the Vols chose Bradshaw over Mary-ville product Lee Humphrey, who's one of the league's best 3-point shooters at Florida.

Bradshaw, meanwhile, couldn't shoot. He had trouble defending quicker players on the perimeter, and he struggled to finish drives around the basket.

But along came Bruce Pearl and his new up-tempo, free-wheeling style that utilizes four

players outside and one inside.

Bradshaw found a new home - the Vols' version of point forward - and he also found some consistent minutes.

"In the past, I never really knew how many minutes I was going to play," Bradshaw said. "It's nice to have a consistent opportunity out there on the court. I was always confident that I could do this. I was just never sure what my role was."

Bradshaw's move to forward has created awkward matchups for opposing teams. He sees the floor as well as anybody on the Vols' team, and he has the uncanny knack of being able to find open shooters or cutters even when he appears to be clogged up in the middle.

"What we've got is two point guards on the floor at the same time," said Tennessee assistant coach Scott Edgar. "But Dane has been versatile enough and smart enough to get it done against bigger people."

The 6-foot-4 Bradshaw has totally reshaped his body since arriving as a freshman, when he was pushing 220 pounds and looking more like a chunky tight end.

Bradshaw is now closer to 200 pounds. But more importantly, he's trimmed his body fat and is much leaner.

"I didn't have much choice if I was going to play in this system," he said.

Heading into today's South Carolina game at Thompson-Boling Arena, Bradshaw leads the Vols in rebounding (6.4) and assists (4.31). Last year he averaged 3.4 points and 2.1 rebounds.

He also leads the SEC in assist/turnover margin with 69 assists and only 23 turnovers and is fourth in steals (2.13).

That's not to mention guarding everyone from Florida's 6-11 Joakim Noah to Memphis' 6-8 Shawne Williams.

"He's not allowing himself to be taken advantage of because he plays so hard," Georgia Coach Dennis Felton said. "He's doing whatever he has to do to compete in guarding bigger men, whether it's hitting them, holding them, being really rugged (or) just being very active."

Over and above his tangible contributions on the court, Bradshaw has set the standard for this team in perhaps the most important category.

His willingness to do anything to help the Vols win is off the charts.

"Dane's a warrior," teammate Chris Lofton said.

"He's undersized for his position, but he just keeps fighting and competing. That's what I like about him."

As well liked as Bradshaw is by his teammates, he's not going to win any popularity contests around the league with fans.

His verbal jousting with opposing students has almost become legendary.

Before the Mississippi State game last Wednesday, Bradshaw said one of the referees approached him and warned, "I've heard about you and the fans. Watch yourself."

Ironically, the Mississippi State students were as easy on Bradshaw as anybody has been all season. Part of that was that the game was over about as soon as it began, and Bradshaw wasn't doing much to rile them up, either.

"My wrist was hurting, and I didn't know if I could even shoot, so I didn't really say anything to them," said Bradshaw, who sprained his wrist against Florida and had it taped up for the Mississippi State game.

Bradshaw figures he's heard it all, and he's not too proud to poke fun at himself.

"When you're the shortest white guy on the court, you get used to it," he said.

The Florida students last year held up a picture of his older sister, Bridget, who played basketball at Barry University in Miami.

"That was a good one," Bradshaw said.

The LSU students questioned his sexuality with chants of "Homosexual" throughout the game.

"Yeah, one of my friends said, 'You know, Bradshaw, 6,000 people can't all be wrong,' " he joked.

Of course, Bradshaw had a few choice words for the LSU students and gestured to them after making a long 3-pointer, although he denies making a throat slash.

The LSU students were chanting Bradshaw's name when Pearl sent him back into the game with 1:07 to play and raised his hand toward the student section. LSU Coach John Brady wasn't amused and questioned Pearl's class afterward.

The whole thing only ballooned when Bradshaw made his "gang-banger in Memphis" comment when explaining that he wasn't worried about "some frat kid at LSU."

What Bradshaw was trying to say was that he once received a death threat while playing high school basketball in Memphis, which paled to anything he's heard from students around the SEC. It came out wrong, though, and Memphis Coach John Calipari ran with it as explosive bulletin board material.

Bradshaw was booed from the time he stepped onto the floor at the FedExForum, but responded with the best game of his career. He had a career-high 21 points to go along with 10 rebounds, four assists and five steals.

Afterward, he apologized for his poor choice of words and said he loved the city of Memphis.

The Tigers also showed him some love.

Williams paid Bradshaw perhaps the ultimate compliment from someone who came up through the Memphis city high school leagues.

"Dane showed he's a Memphis player," Williams said.

He's also showing that 6-4 guys who aren't great shooters and aren't particularly athletic can still be plenty effective.

"He's a pain," Odom said. "He's a pain to play against, because he understands as well as anybody in the league what his strengths are and what his team needs.

"And he knows how to put those qualities together and make the best of it."

Asumnu keeps working

By Gentry Estes, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

January 28, 2006

KNOXVILLE - There was no pouting, no tantrum.

By all accounts, Tennessee's Stanley Asumnu took his demotion like a man, the way a senior should. Now the former starter is staying late at practice, doing all he can to change coach Bruce Pearl's mind.

"It's motivation," Asumnu said. "I want to get back there."

In his first reserve appearance this season, Asumnu played 20 minutes and scored 12 points on 5-of-8 shooting in the Volunteers' 88-65 Wednesday night victory at Mississippi State. "I came in, worked hard enough and Coach said I was going to be the starting (small forward)," Asumnu said. "Now he decides he wants to make a change. I just took it like I'm still going to play well.

"That's what I did at Mississippi State, responded from the get-go to make him think about some things in the back of his head."

Regardless, Pearl is expected again to start Andre Patterson ahead of Asumnu when No. 19 Tennessee (13-3, 4-1 SEC) hosts South Carolina (11-8, 2-4) at 5 p.m. today.

"Sure, he'd love to be starting," Pearl said of Asumnu, "but he's started for a good portion of this season, the whole season. I think the way he has responded has been terrific. He came off the bench and played with focus."

Asumnu has scored in double figures in three of the past four games, but the big blip on the screen was a 1-point, 3-turnover performance last Saturday against Florida. As a result, he played a season-low 12 minutes against the Gators.

"Florida is where I finally had a bad game," Asumnu said. "It's not like I'm out of it. I feel like I'm in a position to contribute and play like I'm a starter still."

At 6-foot-7, Patterson is 2 inches taller than Asumnu, giving the Vols more versatility with defensive matchups against taller opponents. But statistically, Patterson is ahead of Asumnu in nearly every category, but particularly in rebounding, where the Vols have ranked last in the SEC for much of the season.

Against Mississippi State, Patterson started and had 10 rebounds at halftime. He finished with 13 points and a gamehigh 11 boards, stats that likely mean he'll hear his name called during introductions tonight.

"It's easier for me to get in a rhythm when I start than coming off the bench," Patterson said. "I think Coach knows that."

A new Vol walk

It was C.J. Watson's idea.

Tennessee's senior point guard approached Pearl about 45 minutes before last Saturday's victory over Florida. Watson asked if the Vols could enter the game from the concourse at Thompson-Boling Arena, walking through the stands to the court, as Villanova did earlier this season.

"In looking at all the different video clips of Saturday's game," Pearl said, "there's nothing that hit me in the heart harder than watching our players come down through the stands and looking at their faces, how much they were enjoying that reception." So is Tennessee planning a similar entrance today?

"We'll find out," Pearl said with a grin. "You've got to leave a little suspense."

Bradshaw for MVP?

Tennessee forward Dane Bradshaw practiced full speed Friday, and a sprained wrist shouldn't affect him for today's game. That is presumably bad news for South Carolina coach Dave Odom, who said Thursday that "without any question," Bradshaw would be voted the league's most valuable player right now.

"He is a pain if you're playing or coaching against him," Odom said.

It didn't take long for Odom's comment to reach Bradshaw.

"My parents actually heard that," Bradshaw said. "They kept calling my phone and I didn't know what they wanted. Finally, I answered, and that made their day. It's a great compliment coming from a great coach."

Know this: It's what the Vols are good at

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News Sentinel*

January 29, 2006

Here we are putting January to bed and the miracle in Thompson-Boling Arena continues.

Opponents arrive, opponents leave, none able to crack the code that has transformed Tennessee basketball.

Saturday evening, South Carolina took its best shot, which wasn't good enough.

"We played about as well as we could play for 37 minutes," said South Carolina coach Dave Odom, staring at the box score that fleshed out the details of an 81-65 Tennessee victory that wasn't nearly as comfortable as the score suggests.

While virtually every aspect of coach Bruce Pearl's debut season at UT has been surpris-

ing, there is actually very little mystery to it.

The formula for thwarting Tennessee is fairly straightforward - make the Vols play a half-court game and score from their offensive sets.

Ah, there's the rub.

You might rein them in for a while. But sooner or later, hell breaks loose.

And when little chunks of hell break loose, that's what keeps the miracle alive on nights like this when the Vols do things like shoot 6-of-23 (26 percent) from 3-point range.

"That's what we're good at," said UT senior Stanley Asumnu, "getting out in the open floor and making things happen, trying to get the fans into the game.

"So far, it's working out well. The fans look like they're happy."

They were clearly happy when Asumnu threw down a dunk in transition late in the first half to cap a 10-0 run.

The spurt was a lifesaver. The Vols had stalled dead in their half-court offense.

In order, they: twice fired up desperate treys to avoid a shot-clock violation; twice saw Major Wingate miss opportunities under the bucket; twice had driving shots rejected.

During which, the Gamecocks forged a 22-15 lead.

Then Lofton shot an air ball.

But this air ball demonstrated UT's resourcefulness and turned out to be a game-changing event.

Here, let Odom tell it:

"We could have gotten it but we didn't. Dane Bradshaw, who never quits, went and got the thing and threw it back in to Lofton.

"We foul him shooting a three and he hits all three free throws."

That's how the rally started. It ended with more resourcefulness.

Asumnu's dunk sequence began with UT rebounding a Carolina missed dunk and turning on the jets.

Lofton fired a perfect baseball pass to Asumnu and - boom!

The crowd exploded.

Even later in the first half, Lofton stole an inbounds pass off the press and scored. Easy points.

Like Asumnu said, it's what they're good at.

By the time the second half was seven seconds old, C.J. Watson had stripped a Gamecock and raced for a layup. Easy points.

It's what they're good at.

Following a spate of errant 3-pointers in the half-court game, Bradshaw rebounded a South Carolina miss and fired long to Andre Patterson for an easy basket.

It's what they're good at.

But despite it all, South Carolina wouldn't go away. Odom was right. The Gamecocks were playing well.

UT's 10-point lead had shrunk to 55-52, with South Carolina working for a shot to possibly draw even.

Instead another chunk of hell broke loose.

Asumnu came up with a steal and took off. He spotted Lofton on the run and got him the ball.

Lofton had made only one of seven 3-point tries on the night, but he pulled up and made that one.

Next trip, South Carolina missed, UT rebounded and Jordan Howell again pushed the attack.

Another long feed found Lofton ahead of the pack and Lofton made that trey, too.

It was 61-52, the crowd was crazy and South Carolina was gassed.

"I think it put a little dagger in 'em, hitting those threes," said Lofton.

"That's our first priority, to get a basket in transition."

It may come off a turnover, although South Carolina's total of 11 was a season-low by a UT opponent.

"South Carolina was hard to turn over," said Pearl, "but when we did, we converted them into some scoring opportunities."

It may come because the Vols run opponents into the ground and beat them back for quick shots, especially when fatigue sets in.

"Chris Lofton," Pearl said, "I can't believe he made those shots, given the pace of the game at that time."

No matter how those transition baskets come, the fact is that they do come.

That's what they're good at. And every team Tennessee plays knows it.

Trying to stop it from happening, now that takes a miracle.

Patterson is double trouble for UT foes

Mark Wiedmer, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

January 29, 2006

KNOXVILLE - All summer they ran Tee Martin Drive together, running up hill, running away from a 14-win basketball season and a fired coach.

At the time, no one noticed the change in the University of Tennessee basketball team but the team itself.

Maybe new coach Bruce Pearl could make them better than old coach Buzz Peterson.

Maybe. But how much better? And how fast?

You don't just build championship teams in a day, or a year, especially teams arguably weaker in talent than the one that finished fifth in last year's SEC East.

But the running made them tougher, made them stronger, made them one. And at least for now, No. 1 in the SEC East.

"I didn't know we'd be in first place," said UT senior forward Andre Patterson on Saturday after the Vols' 81-65 victory over South Carolina earned them their 14th victory of this season.

"But I knew we wouldn't have a season like last year. We worked too hard at 6:45 every morning to do that. Our chemistry started in the summer. Everybody started putting the team first."

Check the box scores from UT's 17 games thus far and there are almost as many heroes as players. Dane Bradshaw and his huge heart. Chris Lofton and his hot shot. C.J. Watson's all-around brilliance. JaJuan Smith's instant offense off the bench.

But as the Big Orange edges toward its first NCAA berth in five years, the most consistent player may be Patterson, who posted his third straight double-double against the Gamecocks, finishing with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

"They're a better team now that Patterson is in the lineup," said USC coach Dave Odom after UT's season sweep of the Gamecocks.

"He gives them an aggressive inside presence. (Major) Wingate's an inside presence, but he's not as active or as mobile. Patterson makes them much tougher inside, tougher on the boards."

Six minutes to prove a point. As the game clock ticked down inside Thompson-Boling Arena, the Gamecocks' Renaldo Balkman, all dreadlocks and determination, scored three straight baskets to keep the visitors within seven points.

Often assigned to guard the South Carolina forward this day, Patterson took the offensive assault personally. "I saw (Balkman) get on a roll, I got frustrated," he said. "I felt like I needed to do something to counter him."

Over the rest of the game, Patterson scored eight points and hauled down three rebounds as the Vols stretched a seven-point cushion into a 16-point victory.

"Oh, Andre brings another aspect to our team," said Lofton, who once again led the Vols with 23 points, including four second-half 3-pointers. "He rebounds, and he's tall. He's physical, and he's tall. He can score inside…(here Lofton grins) …and he's tall."

On a team of munchkins, the 6-foot-7 Patterson is indeed taller than all but Major Wingate among those playing sizeable minutes.

Yet it was his off-court performances under both Peterson and Pearl that made his ability to consistently contribute a seemingly tall order after he transferred in from UCLA.

Patterson first struggled to take care of business in the classroom under Peterson, much as he had at UCLA. Then came a five-week suspension from Pearl for fighting with UT linebacker Daniel Brooks in October.

"I was kind of in a shell," Patterson said. "I'm from Los Angeles and I came here by myself. I liked to joke and laugh a lot and some guys took it the wrong way at first. It's been tough sometimes."

But as this season has progressed, as Patterson has moved into the starting lineup, he has found his laugh returning and his shell shrinking.

"I've grown up a lot," said the political science major. "Coach Pearl's a disciplinarian. He brings a tough attitude. But he didn't give up on me. I promised him I'd graduate and I'm going to keep that promise."

He would also like to make another promise, or at least a team-wide goal.

"I've been to the Sweet 16," he said. "Best experience of my life. I want to do it again. That's why we'll all get up at 6:45 on Monday morning."

That's why the rest of this improbable UT season is looking more and more like a downhill jog toward the madness of March.

Pearl a reincarnation of Mears?

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 2, 2006

If you were crossing the Gay Street Bridge on Wednesday evening, that flash of fluorescent orange in the corner of your eye can be easily explained.

Does Bruce Pearl miss a trick?

The guy has been Tennessee's basketball coach for less than a year but he hardly needs a lesson in Vol History 101. Heck, he could teach the class.

After his team beat Florida a couple of games back, Pearl invoked Pat Summitt and Philip Fulmer in his post-game press conference.

Wednesday night he tugged an even bigger heartstring.

That Pearl donned a blinding orange blazer for Vanderbilt's visit to Thompson-Boling Arena was no sartorial whimsy.

It wasn't Halloween, but he came dressed as Ray Mears.

And a 69-62 win over the Commodores was further evidence that the rest of the SEC should fear a reincarnation of Mears and the swagger his teams projected.

Pearl understands the significance of the UT-Vanderbilt rivalry. More about that later.

So on Monday he called Mears, who has been slowed by health problems, and pitched an idea.

"I asked did I have his permission and blessing if I were to break out the orange jacket for

Vanderbilt and Kentucky," Pearl said, "knowing those two teams' importance to him."

Naturally, the winningest and most beloved UT men's basketball coach ever approved.

Just Vanderbilt or just Kentucky or both, Pearl asked?

Mears, who never missed a trick and invented a few new ones, said both. Naturally.

And so the orange blazer is 1-0 going into the March 1 Kentucky game.

It wasn't easy. The Vols overcame any number of obstacles.

Some, like 4-of-19 3-point shooting, were self-inflicted.

Most, however, should be credited to a good, athletic Vanderbilt team that led by six points at halftime and by 52-47 with 10 minutes to play.

Mears would have loved the intensity of this game. Too bad he couldn't watch it at home on TV.

No one could. TV missed the boat.

Perhaps Vanderbilt's previous visit to Thompson-Boling had something to do with that decision.

A year ago, CBS came to town for a national telecast. The Vols responded with their worst effort of the year, getting pounded 88-63. No one other than Vandy fans stayed tuned after halftime.

Mears must have been sick. He never liked Vanderbilt much. That's putting it mildly.

He played the rivalry for all it was worth in the 1960s and '70s, exasperating Vanderbilt's coach, Roy Skinner, and the Commodores' fans with his antics, among them breaking out a bright orange blazer.

This was the 168th meeting between the in-state rivals. The Vols have won 103 of them, but Vandy had claimed the past three.

There's more fuel for a good rivalry fire - and we're not even talking recent football embarrassments.

Vandy's coach, Kevin Stallings, spurned Tennessee in 1997. Then Stallings beat the Vols for in-state recruits such as Mario Moore and Julian Terrell.

And Stallings can coach a little.

"I'm not looking forward to coaching against Kevin again," said Pearl. "He's hard to go against."

In contrast to last year, Tennessee is hard to go against. Especially now that Thompson-Boling is a jumping joint.

"It's a tougher place to play because they've got a better team," said Stallings. "Those fans can't get out there and play.

"Now don't get me wrong, 17,000 or whatever compared to the six or seven hundred they had last year, that's a better atmosphere for sure."

It was a better atmosphere in a worthy rivalry.

Ray Mears would have puffed out his chest and soaked it up with a grin.

Vol fans paying SEC fine

Mark Schnyder, WBIR.com

January 26, 2006

UT Basketball fans are trying to bail out the UT Athletic Department. The Southeastern Conference fined UT $5,000 after fans rushed the court when the Vols upset then-undefeated Florida Saturday night.

A sports talk show host on the Sports Animal 990AM arranged to have canisters in all 53 Knoxville area Pilot Convenience Centers so fans can donate money to pay off that "rushing the court" fine.

Mickey Dearstone says he's going to hand-deliver a $5,000 money order to the SEC next Tuesday.

"What we're trying to do is keep the enthusiasm and not let this dampen the enthusiasm for Tennessee fans for what Bruce Pearl has done to the men's basketball program," says Dearstone.

And Dearstone is giving fans the chance to pay back the program that's bringing so much excitement.

"I think it's great," says Vol fan and Pilot customer Ted Ward who donated a dollar to the cause. "The fans pretty much brought the fine on and I think the fans ought to pitch in and pay it. I don't think the team should be penalized or the coach for it."

$5,000 may be a drop in the bucket for UT Athletics, but the way this team continues to play has fans willing to pay.

"Tuesday morning I'm going to drive to Birmingham and be at the SEC office when the doors open at 8 o'clock central time and try to get them to take my five-thousand dollars and pay the fine and give me a receipt showing that Tennessee doesn't owe them the fine money anymore," says Dearstone.

The SEC may not take the money since it's supposed to come from UT. If that's the case, the donations will go to the athletic department. Either way, don't expect to see a fundraiser like this again.

"If it (rushing the court) happens again, it's (the fine) $25,000. We can't raise $25,000 so this is a one-time bail out for them."

UT Athletic Director Mike Hamilton says he appreciates how much fans care about this situation and how much they support the basketball program.

He says this fundraising effort is also good because it draws attention to the SEC rule which bans fans from rushing onto the court.

Pearl credits assistants' chemistry for turnaround of Tennessee men

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

February 4, 2006

KNOXVILLE — Dane Bradshaw's not too proud to say it, and neither are his Tennessee teammates.

If you're looking for the secret to the Vols' stunning turnaround this season, look no further than the bench.

"We're definitely proud of ourselves individually," said Bradshaw, whose improvement has been a microcosm of what the team has accomplished to this point. "But ultimately, it's the coaching staff. We all really feel that way. That's not by any means sucking up to them. That's what everybody feels.

"Whether we're going to Memphis or to Texas, nobody fears going there because we know the coaching staff will put together a game plan that's going to work. It's amazing how many opponents they've out-coached."

The 13th-ranked Vols (15-3, 6-1 SEC) go for their fifth consecutive win today when they face Mississippi at 2 p.m. at Thompson-Boling Arena.

Increasingly, Bruce Pearl's name is popping up any time the national pundits talk about potential coach of the year candidates.

But Pearl said the untold story of this season has been his staff and how well everyone has meshed together.

Ken Johnson, the director of basketball operations, has been with Pearl the longest, starting in 1999 at Southern Indiana.

Tony Jones, the Vols' associate head coach and recruiting coordinator, was with Pearl all four years at Wisconsin-Milwaukee, as was Jason Shay, the third assistant on the staff.

The newcomer is Scott Edgar, who's anything but a newcomer to the coaching fraternity. Edgar was the head coach at Murray State and Duquesne, not to mention Nolan Richardson's chief recruiter at Arkansas from 1985-91.

"The thing about Bruce is that he knew from day one what he wanted to do here," said Edgar, who's recruited or coached 17 NBA players. "One of his many strengths is that he knows what kind of people it takes to help him be successful."

Pearl said the chemistry couldn't be any better, which is important on any staff. But it's especially important in working for Pearl because he's the first to admit that he can be a tyrant.

"I think I'm pretty easy to play for, but I'm hard to work for," Pearl said. "I push my guys and am very demanding. I think they respect me, but I can be moody and difficult. You always take it out on the ones you love. I take it out on those guys pretty good."

Just like the players on this team, the assistants have also bought into their roles.

Jones and Edgar are the primary recruiters, and both have already scored Top 50 nationally rated prospects.

Jones, who played at Fisk, was the point man in landing Duke Crews. Edgar spearheaded Wayne Chism's recruitment.

"This is a staff that's good at evaluating players, and there's not pressure on any one person to deliver," Edgar said.

Shay, a walk-on guard at Iowa during Pearl's last year there as an assistant, has been heavily involved in scouting opponents. He's drawn the scouting assignment for some of the Vols' most difficult games, including Texas, Memphis, Florida and Vanderbilt.

"I enjoy the X's and O's," Shay said. "That's what I pride myself on, picking the other team apart and finding their strengths and weaknesses and how we can exploit them and what we can take away."

To make room for Edgar, Johnson took one for the team. He was an assistant coach at Wisconsin-Milwaukee all four years under Pearl, but agreed to come to UT as director of basketball operations. That left the final spot for Edgar, who was involved at the teim in the Louisiana-Monroe head coaching search.

Edgar thinks the best assessment of a staff is how many guys have head coaching potential. He thinks everyone on this staff will be a head coach someday. n

"Ken Johnson, in these players' lives, is going to make them better people," Pearl said. "The same thing is true of all the other coaches, but K.J. has a lot of contact with them on a daily basis, be it academically, socially, personally and things like that.

"That's what it takes to win, having someone like K.J. as a mentor to your players."

"That gets back to Bruce's selection of people, seeing potential in people and knowing how to utilize their strengths to help the program," Edgar said.

It's easy for a staff to have good chemistry when the team is ranked 13th, drawing big crowds and winning. But Jones said the chemistry was there from the beginning.

He said that was never more apparent than during some of the darker times early when the Vols lost Tyler Smith and Jamont Gordon and after Pearl was widely criticized for his handling of the Matthew Dotson situation.

"We had some down times when we got here with the misfortunes with Tyler Smith and Jamont Gordon," Jones said. "But we were patient and stuck to our guns, and our familiarity with each other helped.

"We had the confidence that this thing would turn around. Bad times don't last, and we knew the breaks would start falling our way."

UT's 'Bench Mob' brings out best in Asumnu

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 5, 2006

Tennessee's "Bench Mob" has its own highlight maker in senior forward Stanley Asumnu.

Asumnu, replaced in the starting lineup by senior Andre Patterson four games ago, has made the most of his role as a reserve, joining the Vols' self-anointed "Bench Mob" band of reserves.

The high-flying Asumnu said the key has been accepting the move as a positive. The numbers show what a good attitude can do.

In the four SEC games Asumnu has played since being moved to the bench, he's averaging 10.7 points on .606 shooting. Asumnu has averaged 17.25 minutes as a reserve and has eight assists and one turnover.

In the previous four SEC games, Asumnu averaged 6.2 points on .416 shooting. He was playing 18.25 minutes per game and had 10 turnovers and two assists.

"As soon as the move was made, Stan came to us and said he was part of us now," said reserve guard JaJuan Smith, the leader of the "Bench Mob" since Patterson was promoted to the starting lineup. "The move was made to give us more firepower, and it has."

Asumnu said it's all great fun.

"It's really cool and I enjoy it," Asumnu said. "They've adopted me. I've really embraced it and it's been good for me ever since."

And Asumnu has been good to the Vols, as his numbers have come at key times. Asumnu's highlight dunks also serve to inspire his teammates and the crowd.

"I like to give people a little something to think about," he said.

Coach Bruce Pearl said Asumnu's success off the bench makes perfect sense.

"He comes in after guys are a little fatigued and he's fresh, so his athleticism really stands out," Pearl said. "He's played a little bit less, but he's playing so much better."

Lofton Slump? Since opening the SEC season by going 6-of-7 from beyond the arc at South Carolina, UT shooting guard Chris Lofton is 19-of-61 (31.1 percent) the past seven games.

"I think he's just saving it," Pearl said, when asked about Lofton's recent outside shooting.

Pearl was referring to Lofton's knack for coming up big in the crucial games this season.

Lofton scored 23 points in the rematch with South Carolina Jan. 28 and had 29 points in a win over then-No. 2 Florida Jan. 21.

Tennessee can go far, fallen foes say

By Mark Wiedmer. *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

February 7, 2006

KNOXVILLE — Ten minutes after Ole Miss fell 86-72 to Tennessee on Saturday, Rebels guard Todd Abernethy stood on the floor of Thompson-Boling Arena assessing the Vols' NCAA tournament potential.

"Oh, they're definitely up there," the Rebs' captain said. "Tennessee probably plays better defense than either LSU or Memphis (two other winners over Ole Miss this season), and I think both those teams can get to the Final Four."

Before anyone pans Abernethy's credentials for rating an opponent's tournament chances, consider that his father is Tom Abernethy, a key member of the 1976 Indiana Hoosiers, college basketball's last undefeated national champions.

"Their defense is amazing," said the ex-Hoosier, who learned a thing about defense starring for Bobby Knight. "When you can play defense like that, you've got a chance against anybody."

But just in case you would prefer a coach's analysis of the No. 11, 16-3 Vols heading into tonight's game at disappointing Kentucky, we give you Vanderbilt coach Kevin Stallings, who lost 69-62 to UT last week.

"They'll be a tough out," Stallings said Monday. "I think Tennessee's style will be peculiar for people to play against. The (NCAA) tournament is so much about matchups. In many ways, it's the luck of the draw. But they're a team that could cause a lot of people trouble in the tournament."

Georgia coach Dennis Felton, whose team lost by 13 to UT in early January, echoed Stallings' comments about first-year coach Bruce Pearl's wide-open offensive attack.

"They have a unique lineup with four guards who can handle the ball and a very mobile 4 (strong forward) in Andre Patterson," Felton said. "Or they can get physical with four guards and Major Wingate.

"They have a lot of team speed, (Chris) Lofton is one of the premier shooters in the country and (C.J.) Watson is also a deadly shooter. Plus, they just play really well together."

Offense. Defense. Anything else?

"What makes Tennessee good is their energy level," said Larry Conley, the longtime television commentator and perhaps the foremost authority on Southeastern Conference hoops. "When they play with great energy, they're definitely a Top 20 team. Beyond that, Watson and Lofton are as good a pair of guards as any in the country. But when they don't play with energy, and they had that kind of second half against Ole Miss, they're very average."

No team is great 40 minutes a game throughout a long college season. As good as the Vols looked in racing out to a 46- 27 halftime lead Saturday, they looked equally suspect during a second half in which they were outscored 45-40. Even Pearl admitted afterward, "I thought we played better in the first half than we have recently, but we did not play that well in the second half, so we will just have to see where that leaves us."

Halfway through the SEC schedule, the Vols have played well enough to lead the East division with a 7-1 league mark. They are leading the conference in turnovers forced per game, both in all games (19.2) and in SEC contests (18). More important, they are leading the conference by a wide margin in turnover margin, their 6.43 cushion more than 4.5 ahead of Georgia, which is second best at 1.88. "They're just an unbelievable passing team and ball-handling team," Ole Miss coach Rod Barnes said after Saturday's loss. "Especially when Dane Bradshaw is at the 4 (spot). They remind me a lot of the Sweet 16 team we had a few years ago, where everybody plays hard, everybody's pulling for each other, everybody's doing whatever's needed to win."

It has all been a dream come true thus far. But is it a mirage? As much as Kentucky has struggled, the Vols must face the Wildcats twice in the last eight games. They also must visit No. 7 Florida, rapidly improving Georgia and dangerous Alabama, as well as Vanderbilt.

"Not many people win at the five places we are going the next few weeks," Pearl said.

Perhaps, but the Vols have also already handed Mississippi State its worst home loss of the year, 88-65. The Bulldogs fell at home to LSU and Kentucky by 14 and 15. There are also that 17-point victory at No. 6 Texas in December and a nine-point loss at Memphis that was much closer than the final score, so the notion of the Vols winning away from home the next three weeks is hardly a stretch.

But can they go to the Final Four, or at least the Elite Eight, which is further than any UT men's team has ever advanced?

"We've played Memphis and now we've played Tennessee," Barnes said. "I think Memphis has everything it takes to go to the Final Four. They have size, quickness, unbelievable speed, a great point guard, great shooters, everything. But Tennessee is very difficult to prepare for. With the right draw, they're good enough to advance a long way."

TENNESSEE Current record and AP ranking: 16-3, No. 11. Weeds' seed: Third in Washington, D.C., regional.

Best win to date: 95-78 at Texas, which is currently ranked sixth.

Worst loss: 89-73 at Oklahoma State.

Reason to believe: The Vols possess what is rapidly becoming known as one of the nation's most dangerous backcourts in point guard C.J.Watson and shooting guard Chris Lofton. The team leads the SEC in turnover margin, which bodes well for March, when most teams play more cautiously and nervously.

Reason to doubt: As coach Bruce Pearl has occasionally lamented, UT is a turned ankle away — especially if that ankle belongs to Watson, Lofton or Andre Patterson — from being fairly ordinary.The team has little front-court depth and is highly vulnerable when the 3-pointers stop falling.

Prediction: Capable of reaching the Elite Eight with a good draw and a No. 3 seed. Probably out in the Sweet 16 if seeded fourth, since that would match them against a No. 1 in a regional semifinal.

Pearl's effect positively Pitino-esque

First-Year Tennessee Coach Infusing Life Into Staid League

By John Clay, *Lexington Herald-Leader*

February 7, 2006

Once upon a time, an intense coach with an East Coast background (New York) and an NCAA Cinderella story (Providence, Final Four) and an uptempo style (press full court; shoot the three) came to resurrect a fallen program (Kentucky) and promptly turned the Southeastern Conference on its ear.

Seventeen years later, an intense coach with an East Coast background (Boston) and an NCAA Cinderella story (Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Sweet 16) and an uptempo style (press full court; shoot the three) came to resurrect a fallen program (Tennessee) and promptly turned the SEC on its ear.

Bruce Pearl is the new Rick Pitino.

That's not to say the first-year boss of the Volunteers is as talented a coach as Pitino. Pearl lacks the NBA background. He's never earned a Final Four berth.

But there is little doubt that not since the days of Ricky P. has a coach made such an immediate impact on SEC hoops.

A 14-17 team last year, Tennessee under Pearl is 16-3 overall and 7-1 in the conference, with a one-game lead in the SEC East heading into tonight's game with Kentucky in Rupp Arena.

And where Pitino ruffled a few feathers along the way, Pearl hasn't been afraid of a few dust-ups.

When first taking the job, he said his goal was to beat Kentucky.

"I wasn't calling them out," Pearl said yesterday. "I was doing that out of respect."

He was the subject of a post-game "show some class" comment from Louisiana State's John Brady after Pearl played to the LSU student body in the Vols' 88-74 loss to the Tigers in Baton Rouge.

Just the other day, Pearl was tossed from his son's high school basketball game in Knoxville for a comment an official disliked.

Not that Pearl was a stranger to controversy, given that, in 1989, as an Iowa assistant, he recorded a conversation with a high-profile recruit alleging violations against Illinois and turned it over to the NCAA.

Over-the-top? Perhaps. A sure-fire salesman? You bet. A showman? Case closed, considering his bright orange suspenders, striped orange tie and the orange blazer he brought out of Ray Mears' closet to wear against Vanderbilt and will wear again tonight.

"I'm not trying to rile up the fans as much as I'm trying to bring attention to a time when Tennessee was highly thought of," Pearl said.

In a league where such colorful characters as Mears, Wimp Sanderson, Sonny Smith, Hugh Durham and Dale Brown have been replaced by cookie-cutter coaches, Pearl has thankfully pumped in some personality.

"I'm just being myself," he has said more than once.

For Pearl, being himself meant talking to more than 200 booster groups, garden clubs and school organizations after being hired as the program's sixth coach in 17 years, trying to sell Tennessee basketball.

He coaxed UT athletic director Mike Hamilton into tripling the size of the pep band for home games.

It's the same sales strategy Pearl practiced at Southern Indiana, where he covered the gym walls with local advertisements and took the team to a dozen 20-win seasons and a Division II title in 13 years. He won 20 or more games in three of his four seasons at Wisconsin-Milwaukee, including last year's Sweet 16 appearance.

"We're going to be the aggressor; we're going to attack," he said when he was hired. "There are some nights we're going to get run out of the house because of it. But we're going to recruit players that play that way."

The Vols have not been run out of the house. They whipped then-sixth-ranked Texas in Austin. They upset then-No. 2-ranked Florida before a crowd of 24,011 in Knoxville's Thompson-Boling Arena, a cavern that frequently attracts UT men's crowds a third that size. They lead the league in scoring, turnover margin, steals and assist-to-turnover ratio.

"His style," Vanderbilt Coach Kevin Stallings said of Pearl, "forces you to do some things that go against the principles of what you teach."

Stallings also said this: "They believe in each other. They believe in the coaches."

Remind you of another coach the league once knew?

Bruce Pearl might not yet be Rick Pitino. But he could be.

Vols guard makes point at Kentucky

By David Climer, *The Tennessean*

February 8, 2006

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Chris Lofton won't say it, so I will.

How do you like me now, Coach Smith?

Snubbed by his beloved home-state 'Cats in favor of bigger names, Lofton hung 31 points on Kentucky last night, helping Bruce Pearl continue to spread the Big Orange gospel to yet another SEC outpost.

Those of us who have been waiting for the Big Orange bubble to burst are starting to believe. Even in a season when Kentucky is far off its customary game, winning at Rupp Arena is still quite an accomplishment.

This is only UT's fourth victory in the 30 year-history of this basketball Mecca. Most Tennessee players go through a career without winning at Rupp.

The Vols' victory came in large part because of a signature game by a player who never got a chance to put his signature on a Kentucky scholarship. The Big Blue went for bigger names in that recruiting class.

Joe Crawford of Detroit was the shooting guard of choice two years ago. When he joined Rajon Rondo of Louisville as Kentucky signees, the 'Cats seemed to have their backcourt of the future.

"They did what they had to do," Lofton said with a shrug after the game. "They had players coming in that were higher rated."

No, Lofton wasn't a McDonald's All-American. But as of this morning, he is prime rib while Crawford and the 'Cats are just a bag of burgers, fading into the middle of the SEC East pack.

"Chris doesn't really talk about it, but we all know this is where he wanted to go to school," said UT's JaJuan Smith, who scored eight points off the bench.

"We knew how much this game meant to him. Kentucky wanted him as a walk-on."

Something tells me Tubby Smith would reconsider things now. A player like Lofton would do wonders for a team that has lost its confidence from the perimeter. Smith's Wildcats hit just 4-of-16 3-pointers last night; Lofton was 7-for-10 on his own.

"Chris Lofton just killed us," Smith said. "Every opportunity he had to get a shot off, he knocked it down."

Some of those shots seemed to be launched from just this side of Maysville, Ky., his hometown and the place where he developed such a love for Kentucky basketball.

"Give him credit for making some tough shots," said Crawford, who managed 12 points for Kentucky. "We were right there with him the whole game and he still made them."

Lofton took only one shot and didn't score in the first 9½ minutes. But in the next four minutes, he nailed four 3-pointers to key a 17-2 UT run that pushed the Vols into a 31-21 lead.

Some of Lofton's shots seemed to break Kentucky's spirit. Using a quick release to arch the ball over taller defenders, Lofton hit back-to-back 3-pointers midway through the second half when UT seemed to be running out of offensive options.

"He can really shoot it," said 'Cats guard Brandon Stockton. "If you leave him out there and he puts it up, it will probably go in."

Meanwhile, pardon Chris Lofton if he doesn't tear up at the sound of My Old Kentucky Home. These days, he's whistling Rocky Top.

Trapped in Lofton's house

Former Mr. Basketball Haunts Kentucky -- In His Old Haunt

By Mark Story, *Lexington Herald-Leader*

January 8, 2006

It's the coolest room in all Kentucky.

There are not one, not two, not three, but four giant TV screens.

The wall decorations -- all those championship banners and retired jerseys -- are the ultimate guy decorating fantasy.

OK, it lacks a sofa.

Still don't be fooled: You might call it Rupp Arena.

Chris Lofton calls it his living room.

Returning again to the arena where he built his high school legend, Kentucky's 2004 Mr. Basketball delivered a crushing "take that" last night to the school that spurned him.

In what was clearly Tubby Smith's ultimate nightmare scenario, the Kentucky kid he didn't recruit all but single-handedly led Tennessee past the struggling Kentucky team that Smith did recruit.

The final scoreboard showed Tennessee 75, Kentucky 67.

The final box showed: Chris Lofton 31 points.

"To do special things, you have to have special players and special performances," UT Coach Bruce Pearl said afterwards. "You saw that tonight in Chris Lofton."

Actually, what we saw seemed familiar. Looking just as comfortable in Rupp as he did in leading Mason County to back-to-back Sweet Sixteen championship games, Lofton buried 7 of 10 three-pointers and hit 11 of 18 shots overall.

The 6-foot-2 guard even grabbed seven rebounds.

"It is real special coming back to my home state, but this is not home," Lofton said. "Home is Maysville. But this is just another game, just another win in the SEC."

Sure it is, Chris.

For those of us who love Kentucky high school basketball, Lofton's tale is achingly familiar.

The guard spent his senior year filling nets from one end of Kentucky to another. He was such a nice kid, people in Maysville still rave about the amount of time Lofton gave to working with younger kids.

Yet UK reportedly questioned his lateral foot quickness and whether he could defend the way Kentucky (used to) defends.

In that 2004 recruiting class, Kentucky took guards Rajon Rondo and Joe Crawford -- both McDonald's All-Americans -- as well as Ramel Bradley and Adam Williams (who went to a prep school for a year before coming to Lexington).

It did not take the kid from Maysville who desperately wanted to come.

"Absolutely, he would have come if they'd offered," Frank Lofton said last night of his son.

When Smith and UK passed, Lofton was hardly flooded with offers. It took a late scholarship from ex-Vols coach Buzz Peterson to punch his ticket to Knoxville.

After a stellar freshman year, the guy whose lateral foot quickness was supposedly questionable has been dynamite in Pearl's frenetic full-court pressing attack.

Yet, after pouring in 29 points in Tennessee's upset of then-No. 2-ranked Florida, Lofton came into last night in something of a shooting slump. In the four games before Kentucky, he had made eight of his last 27 three-point attempts over four games.

But coming back to the arena where he played in 10 state tournament games (shooting 54 percent from the floor and 45.5 on threes) figured to be the perfect tonic.

Lofton didn't get his first points until a three-pointer with 10:25 to go in half one. But once he got going, UK was cooked.

He drained another trey from the top of the key with UK's Ravi Moss plastered in his face at 9:07. Not even a full minute later, Lofton hit another triple.

"I got my rhythm early," he said.

It never went away. With UT clinging to a 66-65 lead inside the game's final two minutes, Lofton scored seven straight points to give the Vols a victory to savor.

When it was over, Lofton's mom, Kathleen, was surrounded by reporters as she talked about how proud she was of the show her son put on "for the home-state fans."

She was decked out in a sweatshirt almost as luminous as that sport coat worn by Pearl.

Two years ago, she said she'd never have dreamt that orange would replace blue as the staple of her wardrobe.

"Orange was for Halloween," she said.

Meanwhile, Kathleen's son basked in a moment he will never forget. The night the Kentucky kid buried Kentucky.

"This was my favorite arena in high school," Lofton said.

And now?

"I've got a lot of favorite arenas," he said.

Actually, as Chris Lofton showed us again last night, for him Rupp is not an arena.

It's his living room.

Lofton happy to be wearing orange now

By Jerry Brewer, Louisville *The Courier-Journal*

February 8, 2006

LEXINGTON, Ky. - The question has become as tired as a worn-out song on the radio.

Why didn't the University of Kentucky (or Louisville, for that matter) recruit Chris Lofton? And for just a pinch of variety -- is he mad because of it?

Well, after watching the one team smart enough to sign Lofton beat Kentucky last night, it's time for a remix.

The question from now until Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl's orange blazer fades should be: Shouldn't Lofton be awfully glad he's a Volunteer right now?

There's no need for him to worry about the silliness of Bluegrass recruiting mishaps. There's no need for you to empathize with him because he's not wearing Wildcat blue or Cardinal red.

The Mr. Basketball Who Was Told To Go Away is thriving now. His game is outstanding, and his team might be even better.

It's February, and Kentuckiana already is contemplating the basketball season's end. Meanwhile, at Tennessee of all places, the Vols have a rising program led by a fiery coach.

Sorry that Lofton slipped out of state? He's not.

"I get tired of hearing that Kentucky talk," he said after making seven three-point goals and dropping 31 points in a 75-67 victory. "They had players coming in here higher ranked than I was. You can't blame them."

Oh, yes you can. How interesting it was that Lofton, a sophomore, played hero on a night when UK sophomore guard Ramel Bradley sat out for disciplinary reasons. Think Louisville, a mediocre shooting team, could use Lofton's jumper?

Other big wins

But, once again, why would Lofton want to play for either team right now?

His team is No. 11 in The Associated Press poll and No. 3 in the RPI. Coming to Rupp Arena and winning wasn't even Tennessee's biggest victory this season. The Vols went to Texas and won by 17 and also gave Florida its first loss earlier this season.

"I guess it's big," Lofton said of winning in Rupp.

Oh, please. Lofton knew the significance. He was just playing the role.

This was the court on which he hit nine three-pointers and won the state title for Mason County High School. This was against the school his father, Franklin, said his son wouldn't have been able to refuse if it wanted him. UK snubbed Lofton. And Lofton just sent Wildcats fans back into their familiar panicked state.

"I'm on cloud … just whatever cloud is higher than Cloud Nine," said Lofton's mother, Kathleen.

Kathleen figures she hears the UK talk "three or four times a day" in the family's hometown of Maysville. But instead of fans asking if her son is mad he didn't get to go to UK, they now tell her how much they wish they had him.

Good fit for him

Funny, former Wildcat Richie Farmer said the same directly to Lofton after last night's game. Oh, well. What's Lofton supposed to say? He's on a team infinitely more exciting than the Wildcats. He's winning big. He's in a system that uses his talents.

"He's happy where he's at," said Franklin, his father. "At the beginning, he was disappointed he didn't get to go to UK. But he's happy now, and his family is, too."

Kathleen joked she never used to wear orange -- "Orange was for Halloween," she said. But now she wears Volunteer orange nearly every day. The trend is catching on across Mason County, where the big blue fan base can't hide its love for Lofton.

He's not disappointing them. He's the leading scorer on the Southeastern Conference's best team. He's helping drive the greatest turnaround story in NCAA Division I college basketball this season.

"I'm just having fun playing basketball at Tennessee," Lofton said.

More fun than he'd be having in this state, that's for sure.

Closing out games a Vol speciality

Brent Hubbs, VolQuest.com

February 9, 2006

The Tennessee basketball team is the cat's meow to nearly everyone with even a passing interest in Volunteer athletics right now. The Vols are sporting a two game lead in the Eastern Division. Their up-tempo style has everyone talking, and in league play, they are leading the SEC in scoring at nearly 80 points a game.

Yet, everywhere you go. The question remains the same. How is this team 17-3? Is it simply great chemistry? Is it effort? Is it all Bruce Pearl? It is all of those things and then some.

And in that 'then some' category is one of the biggest keys to this team's success and that is how they finish. Simply put, they finish games with authority. Tennessee does not wilt under pressure late. They don't run out of gas. Instead, the Vols have dominated the last four minutes of the game in SEC play.

The proof is in the numbers. In nine SEC games, Tennessee has outscored their opponents in the last four minutes to the tune of 85-63. Against SEC Eastern Division opponents, that number is an astounding 65-36.

But perhaps the most telling indication of Tennessee's dominating play down the stretch is the wins over Vanderbilt, Kentucky, and Florida. At the four minute mark in each of those three match-ups, the game was tied. The Vols won those games by outscoring the three 34-14. They outscored the Gators 12-8. They outscored Vanderbilt 11-4 and Tuesday night they outscored Kentucky 11-2 in Rupp Arena.

For Tennessee fans who witnessed the Kentucky and Florida games in the past, where the opponents were the one's making the three pointers to win the game or send it to overtime, dominating the closing minutes of a basketball game is a rather new concept. For those who are a part of the Bruce Pearl system it is the way it is supposed to be.

Jayson Shay is the main scout on the coaching staff. In fact, he has been assigned the lead scouting duties for Vanderbilt, Florida, and Kentucky as well as Texas earlier in the year. And based on what he's seen in his time under Pearl, Shay isn't surprised at all by the numbers at the end of games and the way this team closes out opponents.

"If you went back and looked at the numbers last year at UWM (Wisconsin-Milwaukee) they would be very similar," Shay offered. "We had a lot of game where we finished with a 12-0 run, a 6-0 run or a 17-2 run. It's what is supposed to happen."

It is supposed to happen, because that is the system.

"It is a function of the system," Shay said. "We play our bench early in the game to keep our guys fresh down the stretch. It is a combination of mental and physical fatigue. We had a play last night where we were still pressing and didn't get a trap, but we had someone in front of Joe Crawford and he turned it over dribbling behind his back and it went right to Andre. It was a freebie that was a result of the system."

According to Shay, the theme of winning the last four minutes has always been a point of emphasis in this system.

"We say all the time that it is all about the stretch run," Shay said. "It is about who makes plays and who doesn't. And it is our plan that we make those plays because of the effects of the press throughout the game."

For this team it is about the system and it is about confidence which is something that this team is full of right now.

"Coach Pearl is the reason we make plays down the stretch," Shay said. "He gives them confidence. When you play with confidence, you make plays. And they have confidence because they are not afraid to try and make plays. They are not looking over their worried about going to the bench if they mess up. Instead they are more worried about getting the offensive rebound if they miss a shot."

Pearl's handling of players, his system and early success are the main reasons this team seems to thrive down the stretch in key games. In fact, Shay said this team's biggest win might be one that is overlooked by a lot of fans.

"One of our biggest wins of the year was the win against Murray State," Shay said. " We were down nine and came back to win and while we were down the players saw no panic. The success of coming back and winning that game because of the system gave the players a lot of confidence."

And that confidence has turned into a true swagger that seems to get bigger in the closing minutes of the game.

Hot: Vols; hotter: Lofton

UT guard scores career-high 33 on 9 3-pointers

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 11, 2006

ATHENS, Ga. — Chris Lofton said it wasn't a matter of him getting hot so much as staying hot.

The same could be said for No. 11 Tennessee, who won its seventh consecutive game by holding off Georgia 83-78 on Saturday at a sold-out Stegeman Coliseum.

Lofton, on the heels of 31 points and seven 3-pointers at Kentucky last Tuesday, scored a career-high 33 points against Bulldogs. Lofton's nine 3-pointers broke the school record formerly held by Allan Houston, who had eight against Fordham on Dec. 29, 1989.

"It's a great achievement, but I really don't care about that," said Lofton, who was 10-of-14 from the floor and 9-of-12 from 3-point range. "As long as we win, I'm happy."

The Vols (18-3, 9-1 SEC) have a two-game lead in the SEC Eastern Division and are the overall conference leader after LSU's loss to Florida on Saturday.

UT appeared to be just as in control of the Georgia game after building a 60-42 lead with 12:32 remaining.

But the Bulldogs (14-9, 4-6) staged a furious rally when Levi Stukes hit a 3-pointer to score three of his team-high 20 points and spark a 14-1 run that pulled them within 63-58 at the 8:25 mark.

Georgia hit 5-of-7 field goals during the run while UT missed five consecutive shots and turned the ball over five times.

Moments later, the lead was down to two when Billy Humphrey scored off an inbounds pass to make it 67-65 and ignite the crowd of 10,523 with 4:41 left.

"They came back with that 1-3-1 (trap defense) and about won the ball game," said sweat-stained UT coach Bruce Pearl, who led his players into the stands to greet 1,500 or so Vols fans who made the trip. "The 1-3-1 really disrupted us. It's its length, it's aggressiveness they played it as effectively as I've ever been played."

Tennessee found itself — and Lofton — just in time to hold on.

With 3:14 left, Dane Bradshaw dished to Lofton on the wing, and the Vols' sophomore sharpshooter buried a 3-pointer to give UT a 71-65 cushion. Georgia got no closer than four

the rest of the game.

Just before the pivotal three, Bradshaw spoke to Lofton as the team came out of a time-out.

"Dane said 'this is what it's all about, we're in a hostile environment and we need to come out with a win,' “ Lofton said. "I saw the game slipping away it was time to settle down and get a key basket.”

Bradshaw was intent on making sure that happened, muscling through the Bulldogs' trap to slip the pass to Lofton.

"I was looking to get him the ball, because it doesn't matter if he's covered,” said Bradshaw, who had a team-high six assists. "He's just something very special. At this point, you have to look at him at the All-American level.”

Lofton scored 19 of his points before halftime. His first field goal of the game, with 9:12 left in the first half, triggered a 12-0 UT burst. Lofton finished the run, hitting a 3-pointer that tied the game 19-19 at the 6:52 mark.

"I haven't seen anyone shoot like that,” Georgia guard Sundiata Gaines said. "We were on him he could just flat-out shoot. You just have to hope he misses.”

Lofton went on a personal 9-0 run later in the half, draining three consecutive treys to stake UT out to a 38-29 halftime advantage.

Pearl said Andre Patterson helped carry the Vols through the challenging road game. Patterson scored 15 points and pulled down six rebounds.

"We had a couple guys struggle, and they can look to their teammates and say 'thanks for being there,' “ said Pearl after UT tied its season-high of 23 turnovers. "That's what a great team does. Andre stepped up. He's playing with great confidence, hitting 5-of-6 from the free throw line and rebounding great.

"We've got an amazing team. We've got just enough of everything.”

Tourney Talk: Pearl said as far as he's concerned the Vols have yet to clinch an NCAA tournament berth.

"We're getting close to the time when the math will say we have a good chance of getting in,” Pearl said. "But they have a formula, and they look at what you do the last 10 games.

"Then, you have to look at how many teams are getting in. Who, in the East, couldn't make a run and get in?”

Beat the Trap: The Vols went to a set that put three players on the baseline to beat the 1-3-1, effectively overloading the zone.

Often, UT would spread the court, get the ball in the middle to draw the trap, and then dish to an open shooter in the corners or on the wing.

Streaks: Tennessee won its seventh straight SEC game. The winning streak is the Vols' longest in the SEC since winning eight in a row during the 1981-82 season.

Sneakers: Both coaching staffs wore tennis shoes as part of the National Associate of Basketball Coaches (NABC) coaches vs. Cancer promotion.

Hot Levi: As hot as Lofton has been, Georgia's Stukes is also steaming. Stukes entered Saturday hitting 12-of-20 treys his previous three outings and made 5-of-6 on the Vols.

Stukes is 17-of-26 (.653) over his past four games while Lofton is 18-of-32 (.562) over four games. Lofton is 16-of-22 (.727) the past two games.

Tiger Scout: UT assistant Scott Edgar said the Vols' experience Saturday could help them Wednesday night, when they return home to host Auburn.

"Auburn plays a 1-3-1,” Edgar said. "It really was a good scout for us.”

Patterson said Auburn's record, 10-10 and 2-7 in the SEC heading into its game with Arkansas Saturday night, means nothing.

"We don't underestimate any opponent, because we can't” Patterson said. "Auburn beat us down there last year.”

Fans paint Dawghouse in Orange

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 11, 2006

ATHENS, Ga. - To the scrapbook of amazing snapshots in this surreal Tennessee basketball season, add this one:

Maybe 30 minutes after UT's 83-78 win Saturday, first-year Bruce Pearl walks out of the tunnel into Georgia's Stegeman Coliseum to do his radio show and what does he see?

Several hundred orange-clad Vol fans cheering, waiting to hang on his every word.

"I'm telling you right now,” Pearl says to them in a raspy voice, "we don't win this game without you all in the house.”

They roar.

"Ten-year extension,” shouts a guy in an orange baseball cap.

"We don't win this game without you coming, coach,” hollers another guy.

Georgia coach Dennis Felton had just finished with his radio show and was leaving unnoticed as Pearl arrived, the conquering hero.

What must Felton have been thinking at this scene in his own house?

That he'd give anything if Georgia fans would load up in busses and go on the road with him, that's what.

"That,” said Felton, "can have as much to do with building a program as anything else that can happen.”

Pearl's trying to make his pilgrims feel important, of course, but he might possibly be right. Maybe UT doesn't win without them.

As it was, Tennessee hung on for dear life, surviving a ferocious Georgia rally.

An 18-point UT lead was whittled to 67-65 before the Vols regrouped in the final four minutes.

For sure, the Vols don't win this game without a career effort from guard Chris Lofton.

Think about it: His 31-point performance in Rupp Arena on Tuesday was only his second-best work of the week.

This time, he saved UT's bacon with 33 points and 9-of-12 3-point marksmanship.

His eighth 3-point bucket, the one that tied Allan Houston's school single-game record, was breathtaking, pumping UT's lead to 71-65 with 3:14 left.

His ninth trey, the one that broke Houston's 16-year-old record, afforded the Vols a 77-70 cushion with 1:11 to play.

"He's as good a contested shooter as I have ever seen,” said Felton. "He flat out won the game for them today.”

But maybe Pearl was right. Maybe even a Super Lofton wasn't enough.

Maybe UT doesn't survive without 1,500 to 2,000 Tennessee fans (an estimate from a Georgia official) helping make it a sellout of 10,523, the first in at least two seasons.

Four busloads came from Knoxville, heeding Pearl's plea to follow the Vols on the road.

Many more came on their own. Some couldn't find a ticket and were turned away.

The ones who got inside made themselves at home. Just before the national anthem, they chanted "orange,” and then "white.”

During the playing of Georgia's school song, "The Battle Hymn of the Bulldog Nation,” they irreverently broke out in a verse of "Rocky Top.”

UT athletic director Mike Hamilton said he shook hands with Vol fanatics from all points.

"I don't know how this will all end up when it's all said and done,” Hamilton said, "but for me and the athletic program, it's one of those special times you're going to look back on for a long, long time.”

If LSU coach John Brady took offense at Pearl playing to the LSU students at the end of a defeat in Baton Rouge, he might have popped a gasket at what the Vols did at the final horn Saturday.

The players filed up the steps through the seats to the mezzanine level to mingle with the cheering, stomping orange people.

"It was real special,” said Lofton. "We didn't have any road support last year. Maybe the coach's family and some of our family and that was it.”

Andre Patterson, who gave a vital effort (15 points, six rebounds), said the players felt the energy emanating from the upper deck.

"You come in on the road and then it's quiet and you've got your fans yelling,” he said. "It's kind of strange.”

There have been a number of strange moments this season. Stay tuned because the strangest - and the best - may be yet to come.

Pearl's enthusiasm, winning record recruiting enough

by Dr. Rob Hardin, Maryville *The Daily Times*

February 12, 2006

The Bruce Pearl Era has certainly begun for Tennessee basketball. There was no two-year plan for rebuilding, no three-year plan or whatever-year plan. Pearl came to Tennessee expecting to win and has won.

In 31 games last season, Tennessee produced just 14 victories. It took Pearl just 17 games to match that number of wins this year -- and merely 18 games to exceed it.

He has the Vols in good position to advance to the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2001, when Jerry Green was coach.

The beginning of the Pearl Era was less than spectacular though. Pearl had to first replace a popular coach among the fans in Buzz Peterson. His charisma and personality certainly matched that of Peterson, and he quickly won over many of the Vol faithful.

But then a few more obstacles sprung up, all in the area of recruiting.

He didn't have much time to recruit Jamont Gordon. The Nashville native spurned the Volunteers and took his services to Mississippi State.

That was followed by Pulaski's Tyler Smith announcing that he was reconsidering his decision to attend Tennessee. Smith was not released from his letter of intent to attend Tennessee, and he opted to attend Hargrave Military Academy.

Then Matthew Dotson, a signee of Peterson, was told he was not necessarily welcome on campus. Pearl believed it was in Dotson's best interest to continue his basketball career elsewhere. A mutual decision was reached, and he eventually enrolled at Belmont University in Nashville.

But things did start to smooth out when basketball recruiting hit its stride in October.

Guard Marques Johnson of Fort Wayne, Ind., was first on the list of UT commitments, and he was followed by Bolivar's Wayne Chism. Both players are considered among the top 50 prospects in the nation.

The stunner, however, was landing a commitment from and eventually singing Duke Crews. The 6-foot-7 Crews hails from Hampton, Va., and had his list of final schools down to Georgetown, North Carolina, Wake Forest and Tennessee. Crews is ranked as one of the top recruits in the country and was sold on the attitude that Pearl has brought to Knoxville.

The Vols added guard Josh Tabb of Harmony Community School in Cincinnati to the signing class, and they ascended into the top 10 signing classes nationally.

If Pearl was able to land one of the top recruiting classes in the country before he even coached a game in Thompson-Boling Arena, what can he do with a full year to recruit?

Pearl's first task, and he probably knows it, is to secure the state borders. Tennessee has continually produced top-quality players that have left home.

Now, there is no way of signing every top player the state produces. Those men may easily choose to stay in the state but sign with Memphis or Vanderbilt, but Pearl has an advantage over those schools as well.

Five of the top 80 high school recruits in the country hail from Tennessee according to rivals.com. Only two of those players are staying in-state though. Memphis native Thaddeus Young is ranked No. 3 and has signed with Georgia Tech. Nashville's Brandan Wright is ranked No. 5 and will attend North Carolina.

The Vols landed the next Tennessee native on the list in Chism, who is ranked No. 42. Chism's teammate at Bolivar, Willie Kemp, is ranked No. 46 and is heading to Memphis.

Jarvis Varnado, who attends Haywood County High School, is ranked No. 80 and will join Gordon at Mississippi State.

Producing top-shelf basketball players is nothing new for the state of Tennessee.

The University of Florida is currently ranked among the nation's best teams and has more people starting from Tennessee than the Volunteers do. Portland's Corey Brewer is considered among the best players in the Southeastern Conference, and Maryville's Lee Humphrey ranks among the best 3-point shooters in the country. Both of them start for the Gators.

Mississippi State's Gordon ranks among the freshman leaders in scoring, rebounding and assists and is virtually a shoo-in to make Freshman All-SEC. He joins three other players from Tennessee on Mississippi State's roster.

Vanderbilt has two Tennessee natives in its starting lineup in Mario Moore and Julian Terrell.

Recent players who have made an impact in the SEC from Tennessee include Earnest Shelton at Alabama and Ron Mercer at Kentucky.

Nashville native David Harrison spurned the Southeast altogether and attended college at Colorado. He earned All-Big 12 honors his senior season and now is playing with the Indiana Pacers.

The in-state talent is certainly here.

Pearl has the advantage over Memphis in recruiting because Tennessee plays in the SEC. It seems that Memphis is head of the Conference USA class, but the SEC has more exposure and tougher competition. That certainly can hurt recruiting for John Calipari's Tigers.

Conference USA took a hit in national reputation with the defections of Louisville, Marquette, Cincinnati, and Depaul to the Big East. Losing four schools with a rich tradition of basketball heritage has left Conference USA in a lurch.

Pearl also has the advantage over Vanderbilt in terms of crowd size, basketball tradition and having an athletic department in general.

Tennessee has been a basketball school -- the Vols rank second in SEC championships behind Kentucky and have ranked in the top 25 in attendance nationally every year since 1978. Pearl definitely has something to attract players.

Winning is also a key ingredient in attracting players, and Pearl certainly seems to know something about that as well.

Lofton simplified

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 14, 2006

It’s been said everyone has a story to tell.

It just so happens that Chris Lofton’s begins and ends on the basketball court.

Or so it seems.

Lofton’s basketball tales have been plenty exciting over the past two years, but particularly this season.

The Tennessee sophomore from Maysville, Ky., is coming off national and SEC player-of-the-week honors as the Vols (18-3, 9-1 SEC) play Auburn (10-11, 2-8) tonight at Thompson-Boling Arena. The games starts at 7:30 and will not be televised.

Last Tuesday against Kentucky — the school that ignored him during the recruiting process — Lofton dropped 31 points on the Wildcats at Rupp Arena in a 75-67 victory. On Saturday, he was even more effective, scoring 33 with a school-record 9 3-pointers to single-handily lift the road-weary Vols to an 83-78 victory at Georgia.

Fact is, it’s hard to imagine a more exciting player in college basketball right now than Lofton.

Good thing: The guy is pretty boring off the court.

How boring?

His favorite food is mashed potatoes. Just plain ol’ mashed potatoes. He does, however, dare to put cheese on his broccoli, according to his mother, Kathy Lofton.

But he won’t chew gum.

"Never seen him with it in his mouth,” father Frank Lofton said.

You won’t catch Chris Lofton with his foot in his mouth, either.

Lofton was asked, baited and hounded for nearly 30 minutes after the Kentucky win by media chomping at the bit for Lofton to aim an "I told you so” in the direction of Wildcats coach Tubby Smith.

It never came. Instead, Lofton, who was the state’s Mr. Kentucky in 2004, said he understood the Wildcats’ decision not to offer him a scholarship and was very happy where he ended up.

Bor-ing.

So maybe you’re thinking the wild side of Lofton is reserved for teammates, who see him out of the public eye.

Think again.

"The most interesting thing about Chris that doesn’t have to do with basketball?” UT center Major Wingate asked rhetorically. "Nothing really. He’s just simple.

"He does smile every once in a while.”

Usually, after victories.

Frank Lofton, a mechanical repairman at a coal-burning electrical plant, said that’s just the way of his only child.

"Chris is all about winning championships, and that’s it,” said Frank, who coached his son’s youth teams from kindergarten through fourth grade. "In the big games, he shows up. If he’s not making his shot, he’ll do something else, like the Florida game when he stole the ball from (Corey) Brewer.”

Lofton also burned the then-No. 2 and unbeaten Gators for 29 points that night.

That type of performance didn’t surprise Steve "Truck” Warner, who coached Lofton in AAU basketball for three years of 12- and 14-under ball.

"Nothing ever rattled him,” said Warner, who led the Mason County Hornets to a 52-0 mark and a Kentucky state title during Lofton’s second year in the program. "Chris doesn’t say much, he just shows it to you.

"And he doesn’t get excited about anything.”

Well, maybe chocolate chip cookies or brownies.

"He always keeps a fresh box of them in his room,” UT guard JaJuan Smith. "When I get hungry, that’s where I go.”

Likewise, when the Vols need a bucket, they turn to Lofton.

"It doesn’t matter if he’s covered,” UT forward Dane Bradshaw said. "He’s just something very special. At this point, you have to look at him at the All-American level.”

ESPN.com’s Andy Katz said Lofton should at least be considered front-runner for SEC Player of the Year.

Not that it would do much for Lofton. He has a basement full of trophies and hallways full of plaques at his home.

"Doesn’t care anything about them,” Frank Lofton said.

It turns out Chris did care about going to Kentucky.

"He never did say that for a long time; I found out when it was over after he signed with Tennessee,” Frank Lofton said. "I said ‘Chris what were you waiting on? He said ‘Kentucky, dad.’ “

When former UT coach Buzz Peterson came calling, the Loftons were pleased. Peterson was viewed as a good Christian family man, a sure way to score points with sixth-grade language arts instructor and Sunday school teacher Kathy Lofton.

"We’re a Christian family, and we think things happen for a reason,” Kathy Lofton said. "We moved on and realized Tennessee was the place Chris was supposed to be.”

Kathy Lofton reminded her son of that when he called home after Peterson was fired last March and discussed transferring.

The next notable phone call from Lofton came the day after Bruce Pearl was hired.

"He called me that morning and said ‘I was late for study hall, so guess what I’ve been doing? I’ve been running.’ “ Kathy Lofton said. "He said ‘I was late, and coach Pearl doesn’t play; he made me run.

"Chris was used to a disciplined team, and that’s what he was looking for.”

Smith was a partner in crime with Lofton in the study hall incident.

"Coach Pearl wanted to meet with all the players when he got hired, so we scheduled our meeting with him the same time as study hall,” Smith said. "With Buzz, you’d get one warning. But Coach Pearl said that was the oldest trick in the book and made us get up at 5 a.m. and practice for two hours without a basketball.”

So, Lofton is asked, what does he find to be the most exciting or interesting thing about himself?

"I don’t know; basketball is my life,” Lofton said. "That’s all I know. Growing up in Kentucky, it’s always been like that.”

Playing collegiate basketball in Tennessee, it still is.

Anatomy of a Volunteer - Pain just part of game for Bradshaw

by John Brice, Maryville *The Daily Times*

February 15, 2006

KNOXVILLE -- He does his best to ensure that no portion of the apparatus is visible.

Dane Bradshaw doesn't want anyone to suspect that he's wearing a wire.

``Every once in a while I'm sure all of us have carried a bag of ice to class or some type of machinery that (University of Tennessee trainer) Chad (Newman) has given us,” said the Volunteer forward, his reckless abandon an endearing quality to all but those who run the training room. ``Sometimes, I'm walking to class with cords hanging out of my pocket. I'm sure people are wondering what that is. It's the little portable (electrical) stim machine.

``I try to hide the cords.”

Concealing anything on campus -- or the hardwood -- grows increasingly difficult for the

junior from Memphis with each of the eighth-ranked Vols' games. Tennessee (18-3, 9-1 SEC), which leads the SEC East and owns a seven-game winning streak, hosts Auburn inside Thompson-Boling Arena at 7:30 p.m.

``Injuries tend to become a lot more mental when the team is losing,” Bradshaw said. ``It's funny. There's no better feeling than having a win. But we've got to focus on (the remainder of the season).”

All charged up

The stim machine -- short for electrical stimulation -- eases Bradshaw's various maladies and expedites the healing process by stimulating muscle contractions with a small electrical current. For everything from diving after loose balls to using his 6-foot-4, 200-pound frame to defend players oftentimes a half-foot taller and 30 pounds heavier, Bradshaw routinely takes a beating.

His body bears the evidence; his play reveals nothing of the injuries. He's averaging career-highs in points (7.2), rebounds (6.4), assists (4.4) and minutes (27.3). Bradshaw is just in front of point guard C.J. Watson as the Vols' leading assist man, and his SEC-best 2.88 assist-to-turnover ratio illustrates he remains a valuable backcourt option who embodies a frontcourt mentality.

``I don't think it matters; it doesn't matter to him,” said first-year Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl, who switched Bradshaw to power forward last summer. ``He's got a mental toughness about him, a physical toughness about him that are just intangibles.

``You can't teach it. It's just some guys have it, and some guys don't. I think the more he's banged up, the better he plays.”

Among Bradshaw's known afflictions this season:

n Sprained ankle in home game against Georgia on Jan. 11. Vols win, 89-76.

n Suffered black-eye when elbowed to the floor by Memphis forward Joey Dorsey on Jan. 18. Tigers win, 88-79.

n Injured right wrist when tangled up against Florida's Chris Richard Jan. 21. Vols win, 80-76.

n Takes a hard spill at Mississippi State on Jan. 25 that aggravates his back and leaves him coughing up blood. Vols win, 88-65.

n Diving out of bounds following a steal at Kentucky on Feb. 7, hurts hip rather than further damage wrist. Vols win, 75-67.

``When I got a steal on the press, I caught it in the air and threw it to C.J.,” Bradshaw said. ``I kind of fell right in front of the scorer's table. I was coming down on the right side, so it was either brace my fall with the wrist, which I didn't want to do, so I kind of gave a little bit and fell straight onto the hip.”

That mishap garnered Bradshaw extra face time on ESPN.

``That one made the `Ultimate Highlight,” he said, ``so that was pretty cool.”

Not alone

Stressing all of the Vols have various bumps and bruises, Bradshaw downplays his armor-plated appearance.

``At this point in the season, there's no one out there that's 100 percent,” he said. ``So, I'm not feeling bad for myself whatsoever. Everyone out there is injured at some point, and I know things could be a lot worse. I'm just fortunate to be able to still play.”

Off the court, he takes a verbal beating from his teammates. No injury is sacred.

``I call him Donovan McNabb, `Gimp,' `One-armed Bandit' and `Captain Hook,'” Patterson said. ``We're always giving him a hard time about his injuries.”

Bradshaw-like play

Last month, South Carolina coach Dave Odom in a weekly SEC coaches' conference call touted Bradshaw as his choice for league player of the year. Pearl has run out of ways to describe Bradshaw's value -- calling him the ``glue” and the ``what makes the team go” -- to the Vols, arguably the most surprising story this season in college basketball.

So Pearl has now begun to use Bradshaw as an adjective for other players.

Patterson, flourishing since his insertion into the starting lineup Jan. 25, had 15 points, six rebounds and three assists in Tennessee's 83-78 win Saturday at Georgia.

The key?

``Not many guys drive themselves like Bradshaw. Andre Patterson is playing great basketball,” Pearl said. ``He's starting to play Bradshaw-like, in the sense that he's starting to play hard. And good things are happening to him. And great things are happening to us as a result of it.”

How does Bradshaw define Bradshaw-like play?

``Some nights, you're not going to have it. That's just basketball. But you can always control effort,” he said, ``and if you give maximum effort, good things can happen.”

Bradshaw should know. He's been wired for success.

Resurgent Vols bring 'em in

Fans wait in line for chance to attend game against Ky.

By Rachel Kovac, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 16, 2006

Charles Bowers has been a University of Tennessee men's basketball fan for 56 years. Back in the 1950s he sold popcorn at Alumni Gym just to be able to watch the games.

Early Wednesday morning he went to great lengths once again to see the Vols play. For more than an hour, he waited in frigid weather for the ticket office at Thompson-Boling Arena to open at 8:30 a.m. so he could buy tickets to the UT-Kentucky game.

"They're in a zone," Bowers said. "They can't run out of fuel."

Bowers said he hasn't seen enthusiasm like this for men's basketball since Ray Mears was coach in the 1960s and 70s. For the home game against Florida on Jan. 21, Tennessee saw its first sold-out crowd since 2001.

"They're excited," Bowers said, while standing among about 50 other fans who showed up for the last-minute ticket sale. "Orange juice is flowing."

Tiffany Carpenter, Athletic Department spokeswoman, said a few tickets remained Wednesday for the March 1 game. But she expects they will be gone by early today.

Carpenter said she's happy to see the renewed enthusiasm. UT has increased the number of student seats available by almost 2,000 and will be pulling back the curtains to make room for more fans.

"It's usually the Kentucky fans buying us out of tickets," she said. "Not this year."

But a few Kentucky fans got good seats among the Tennessee crowd.

Nicole Crockett, a doctoral student in English at UT, arrived at the arena a little before 8 a.m. to get her tickets.

She was born and raised in Lexington, Ky., by a former UK basketball player. Her father, Rick Drewitz, played under Adolph Rupp in the early 1970s and raised his family as Wildcats fans.

"I bleed blue," Crockett said.

She acknowledged her family will be squeezed between some very excited Tennessee fans, especially after UT beat Kentucky at Rupp Arena earlier this month.

Though students do not need to buy tickets to the games — they can swipe their student ID at the door — some students weren't going to wait and see if they might be one of the 6,000 students who get through the gates.

James Fredricks, a sophomore, bought three tickets Wednesday to be sure he and his friends will get into the game and have good seats.

"I don't want to be camping out in the cold the night before just to see if I might get in," he said. "There's no 'maybe' this way."

Tennessee proves it has more weapons than just Lofton

Mark Wiedmer, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

February 16, 2006

KNOXVILLE — Here came Stanley Asumnu, roaring down the court, ready to slam home another Tennessee basket Wednesday night, ready to score his ninth and 10th10th points of yet another Vols victory.

Only this was no normal basket during UT’s 105-89 win over visiting Auburn. This Stanley stuff assured that UT would place six players in double figures. And that without starter Dane Bradshaw reaching that plateau.

"That’s just another example of how unselfish we are," said senior forward Andre Patterson, who scored 15 points and pulled down a team-high seven rebounds. "We pride ourselves on having too many weapons." The biggest weapon, of course, remains sophomore guard Chris Lofton, who again led the Vols with 25, despite scoring just three in the opening half. Lofton wound up hitting seven of 11 3-pointers on the night, which was perhaps the biggest reason UT connected on a school-record 16 triples.

Said Patterson of Lofton’s otherworldly run of hitting 23 of 33 threes in his last three games: "If Chris keeps shooting them like this, they may move the 3-point line back on him. I hope they don’t, but he’s making this look too easy."

Yet all the Vols made it look easy against Auburn. Point guard C.J. Watson finished with 18 points, eight assists and two steals, the kind of performance that will keep him fast on the heals of Florida’s Taurean Green for All-SEC honors at that position.

JaJuan Smith came off the bench to post a career-high with 19 points, 15 of those coming from triples. Major Wingate turned in his usual solid night with 12 points, five rebounds and three assists.

And everybody got into defense, at least in the first half, when the Vols held Auburn to 25 points and forced 11 of the Tigers’ 21 turnovers.

"They pressed, just we knew they would," said Auburn’s Ronny LeMelle, who led the Tigers with 19. "They just did some things with their press we hadn’t seen before."

No one has seen a UT men’s team equal this current squad’s 10-1 Southeastern Conference mark (19-3 overall) since the 1976-77 season, when UT stars Ernie Grunfeld and Bernard King made the cover of Sports Illustrated. That team’s invincibility was finally shattered in a mid-winter’s loss to UCLA inside Atlanta’s Omni.

As Auburn coach Jeff Lebo was discussing the difference in this UT team and the one he defeated a year ago in Auburn, he pointed out something that Ernie and Bernie’s Vols teams had and all UCLA teams have — swagger.

"When you win, you have that little swagger, and they’re playing with it."

Yet Patterson played at UCLA before he transferred to Tennessee. He understands Lebo meant the "swagger" line as a compliment, he just doesn’t believe the Vols have quite developed that attitude. "I don’t think we have a swagger," Patterson said. "And that’s a good thing. We had swagger at UCLA. Sometimes we got in trouble because of it. But we’re not cocky here. We just keep working hard to get better."

If they get much better, they might soon find themselves fighting for a No. 1 seed come NCAA tournament time. Already No. 3 in the Ratings Power Index, the Vols will almost cer-

tainly finish among the Top Five in that category should they win their remaining home games against Arkansas and Kentucky and win at least one of their remaining three road games at Alabama this Saturday, Florida next Wednesday and Vanderbilt on March 4. And whether or not UT has that swagger, it certainly has the shooting touch, hitting 57 percent from the floor against the Tigers, the sixth time in seven games the Vols have hit at least 47 percent from the floor.

"It was like throwing rocks in the ocean out there tonight," said Patterson.

It is becoming a sea of trouble for Vols opponents increasingly unable to cope with UT's too many weapons.

Rolling with Excitement

Fans prove if Vols play with heart, they'll hit road to watch 'em, too

By Mark Burgess, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*
February 18, 2006

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Jimmy Hipsher never imagined a 46th birthday like this.

Not on a bus.

Not heading down a rainy, sleet-soaked interstate to watch a University of Tennessee men's basketball road game at Alabama.

"No way," Hipsher said before he camped out in the top row of the upper reaches of Coleman Coliseum. "I never would have imagined this.

"All I want now is a 'W.' Give me a win today and that would be a great birthday present."

Hipsher was one of 51 Tennessee fans who made the Saturday bus ride to Alabama, caught up in the excitement surrounding the No. 8-ranked Vols.

There just wasn't much to cheer about when UT (19-4, 10-2 Southeastern Conference) lost 92-79 to the Crimson Tide (15-9, 8-4).

Hipsher didn't get his birthday wish, but it remains a day lifelong UT fan Doug Boshears never pictured.

"I've got the fever," he said. "I'm a diehard fan, but I never dreamed it could ever happen that people would be making bus rides on road trips for basketball.

"It's just that this team plays so hard and with so much heart. It's almost like someone could make a heck of a movie script out of this whole season."

That was the story repeated over and over again on the 4-hour ride from Knoxville in the cold rain.

"I've been watching them since the late 1940s," fan Allen "Scrapper" Campbell said. "The only thing that compares to this year was when Ernie (Grunfeld) and Bernie (Bernard King) played in the '70s."

The Big Orange TipOff Club helped get the wheels in motion for the second consecutive weekend road trip. For a Feb. 11 victory at Athens, Ga., three busloads of UT fans made the trip.

"I think we could have had that many again this week, but there were a limited number of tickets," TipOff Club representative Barry Smith said after handing out "Bus Mob" name tags to all the riders.

Smith, a former basketball manager at UT in the early 1980s under coach Don DeVoe, said the current excitement is unrivaled in his days following the program.

"It's a combination of things," he said. "First, the team is doing great. Secondly, coach (Bruce) Pearl is promoting the heck out of it and seeing the results."

There was even a dignitary making the bumpy ride down Interstate 59.

E. Riley Anderson, a 16-year Tennessee Supreme Court justice, had his window seat along with a couple of Big Orange pom-poms.

"I've just always been a big basketball fan from the old days in Memorial Alumni Gym to Stokely (Athletics Center)," he said. "But this is my first road trip.

"I think this team just plays so hard, and the expectations weren't great. It inspires people to watch them."

Count Sue Sellers among the inspired.

Sellers was with a group of five fans from Maryville. The wife of the late Herman Ramsey, a longtime SEC official, also made the trip to Georgia.

"We had at least 10 more people who wanted to come to this game," she said. "The trip to Georgia was just great.

"You could tell the players were happy we were there, and it was exciting when they came up in the stands after the game."

There wouldn't be any trip in the stands for UT players this time.

The bus ride back to Knoxville was a little more subdued, but that's not the point. The point is the fans were there.

"The season has been incredible," Hipsher said. "To be projected last in the SEC East and be leading the whole pack we'll take that."

All the way back to Knoxville.

Tele-buddy: 'Season' arrives for UT men's hoops

By Terry Morrow, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*
February 20, 2006

"The Season" has finally caught up with Bruce Pearl.

The University of Tennessee men's basketball team and its head coach will be profiled on and off the court for the reality show "The Season" (7:30 p.m. Wednesday, ESPN2).

An ESPN crew was in town last week "basically following the team everywhere," says Tiffany Carpenter, director of publicity for UT athletics.

Each week, "The Season" captures a week in the life of players and coaches from various colleges.

Last year, the series documented UT head football coach Phillip Fulmer and his players. That one was a two-part episode.

For the UT men's basketball episode, the crew found the players at the Lady Vols' game against Vanderbilt. They also went with Pearl to the cafeteria and attended classes with players C.J. Watson and Andre Patterson.

Carpenter described the episode as "an inside look at Tennessee basketball they show how (the team) gets along, the dynamics and sort of the quirky side of things."

From what the ESPN producers told her, they were pleased with the results of the visit.

Among the more humorous moments that will be shown: At the start of second half of the Georgia game, Pearl had Patterson and fellow team member Dane Bradshaw play "paper, rock, scissors" to figure out who was going to start.

"The show has typical things like that, things fans don't get to see from the stands," Carpenter says.

For Pearl's angle, the show will also focus on his interactions with Lady Vols head coach Pat Summitt and how they work together. They also captured Summitt and Pearl strategizing on how to make up for losses.

Crews were with players and the coach sometimes as long as 16 hours in a day. "The Season" has a quick turnaround since production ended on Thursday and less than a week later the episode is ready for air.

Last week, reports swirled around town that ESPN wants to do a reality show about Pearl, but Carpenter says she hadn't heard of such.

UT luxury suites sold out

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*
February 21, 2006

Sold out.

The 32 luxury suites proposed for Thompson-Boling Arena are sold out, University of Tennessee men's athletics director Mike Hamilton said Tuesday.

UT is reserving one suite for its media-rights holder, but the other 31 have been snapped up.

"We don't have any more available," Hamilton said. "We'll still take deposits in case there's a cancellation."

The Vols' surprising success on the court this year under coach Bruce Pearl propelled donors to get on board for the suites that are targeted for the 2007-08 season.

In the meantime, Hamilton still expects the practice facility project to break ground this summer.

"The basketball projects are on parallel tracts," Hamilton said. "To this point, we've been full steam ahead on the practice facility and working along diligently on the arena.

"This will allow us to pick up the pace on the arena."

Media Rights Package: UT will be soliciting proposals this spring for its media-rights package. The contract with Host Communications expires in June 2007.

UT's media rights have been operating with three separate arms. Hamilton said UT will consider whether to combine two or even all three under one contract.

Host Communications produces radio and television broadcasts and game programs.

Action Sports Media handles the Jumbotron screens in the arena and Neyland Stadium.

UT also internally handles some promotions and sales projects.

"It's our feeling that (some of the projects) ought to be rolled into one," Hamilton said.

The Action Sports Media contract runs through 2014, but UT has a buyout clause it may exercise if it sees fit.

"At this point, we'll probably test the marketplace," Hamilton said. "What we're doing is seeking proposals, not quotes."

New Beasts of the East

Bradshaw is hero again for Tennessee

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 22, 2006

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - Call them inspiring, call them unbelievable and call Tennessee the SEC Eastern Division champions.

The Vols won at least a share of their first SEC East men's basketball title since the 1999-2000 season with a dramatic 76-72 victory over Florida before a rowdy, sold-out crowd of 12,322 at the O'Connell Center on Wednesday night.

"I'm kind of numb," said first-year Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl, who was also soaking wet, having sweated through his suit from the game's early goings. "It's another step in the direction of becoming a very memorable basketball team at Tennessee."

Dane Bradshaw added another page to his storybook season with 15 points, five assists, a career-high three 3-pointers and four steals for the Vols.

Bradshaw, who hit a go-ahead layup in the closing moments of UT's 80-76 win over then-undefeated Florida on Jan. 21, was at the center of the Vols' Gator giggin' once again.

Pearl instructed his team to go for the steal on a side-court inbounds play after Florida called time out with the score tied 72-72 and 18.8 seconds left to play.

Florida's Corey Brewer searched frantically for an open teammate from the tight confines of the O'Connell Center side-court, and with the referee late into his five-second count he released a pass in the direction of teammate Al Horford.

UT center Major Wingate tipped the ball and Bradshaw pounced on it and broke for the basket, spinning past a lunging Taurean Green of the Gators to convert the go-ahead layup with 15.9 seconds remaining.

Brewer, from Portland, Tenn., missed a 3-pointer at the other end with eight seconds remaining and UT's Chris Lofton got the rebound and was fouled.

Lofton proceeded to knock down two free throws with 2.6 seconds left. That did it.

The 10th-ranked Vols, picked to finish fifth in the SEC East during the conference's media days, improved to 20-4 and 11-2 in the SEC while No. 12 Florida fell to 22-5 and 8-5. While it's possible for the Gators and Kentucky (18-9, 8-5) to match UT's SEC record if UT loses its last three games, the Vols own the tiebreaker against both teams.

By clinching the East, UT earned the No. 1 seed in next month's SEC tournament in Nashville. The Vols will have a bye and will play March 10 at 1 p.m. EST against the March 9 winner between the SEC East's No. 5 seed and the SEC West's No. 4 seed.

UT remains tied with LSU for the best overall record in the SEC.

Lofton led the Vols with 16 points despite not hitting a field goal in the second half. Lofton, however, was, 4-for-4 from the free throw line over the final 20 minutes to improve his accuracy to 28 of 28 in SEC games

"They were doubling me, even on the screens," said Lofton, who had five assists and four steals. "But we had other people step up, and as long as we've got people doing that, I'll take wins over points anytime."

Florida forward Joakim Noah scored 20 points for the Gators but missed the final 2:23 after C.J. Watson knocked one of his teeth out with an elbow to the jaw on an inbounds play.

"I was just trying to be physical," said Watson, who had 13 points, six rebounds and three assists. "It was that kind of game. We had to grind it out."

Florida coach Billy Donovan was impressed.

"We really took Lofton out of the game," Donovan said, "but C.J. Watson made a big difference for them. He hit a big 3-pointer late in the game after we'd cut it to one, and he had some nice drives to the basket."

Watson also harassed fellow All-SEC point guard candidate Green into a 2-of-8 shooting performance and four turnovers.

Still, the Gators' inside game was impressive, and Florida led by as many as 13 points in the first half before the Vols drew to 40-36 at halftime.

UT used an 8-0 run midway through the second half to build a 59-52 lead with 7:47 left and with 6:06 remaining took its largest lead of the game at 64-56 on one of Bradshaw's 3-pointers.

But the Gators answered with a 7-0 run to close to 64-63 at the 4:24 mark.

Watson answered with a 3-pointer, but Florida hung tough, and with 1:34 left, Brewer hit a 3-pointer from the corner to tie the game 69-69.

"After he hit it, he winked at me," said UT's JaJuan Smith, who played four years of AAU ball with Brewer. "So I came back down and hit a three and winked back at him."

Smith's 3-pointer, also from a corner, put the Vols back up 72-69 at the 1:27 mark.

Then it was Lee Humphrey's turn. The former Maryville High School standout hit his only bucket of the night, a 3-pointer from the top of the key, to tie the game at 72-72 with 51.9 seconds remaining.

UT turned the ball over on its next possession when Andre Patterson missed Smith's no-look pass, setting up the Florida timeout that led to the pivotal Bradshaw steal.

Orange Slices: The Vols return home to play Arkansas on Saturday at 1 p.m. (TV: WVLT). UT's SEC opponents are 2-10 in games after they have played the Vols. ... UT played in front of its fourth consecutive sellout crowd on the road. It's Pearl's 13th 20-win season over his 14 years as a head coach. The Vols were seven-point underdogs entering the game. It's the first time UT has swept the season series with Florida since the 1999-2000 season.

You had to be here to enjoy war

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 23, 2006

GAINESVILLE, Fla. - Television couldn't possibly do it justice. You had to be here.

You had to be here, like Pat Summitt perched behind the Tennessee bench, to comprehend the absolute intensity that threatened to blow a hole in the O'Connell Center roof.

You had to be here, like Bruce Pearl's parents, to be assaulted by the wall of sound coming from 12,322 foghorns.

You had to be here, like 91-year-old John Bradshaw', watching his grandson Dane, to understand the height and length and athleticism and determination of the Florida Gators.

Which is all to say, you had to be here to fully appreciate the enormity of what Tennessee did Wednesday night.

With a 76-72 victory over the Gators, the Vols clinched at least a share of SEC East Championship and locked up a No. 1 seed in the conference tournament.

If they've ever won a championship in a tougher environment, I'd like to see it.

"We were coming in here for a dogfight and that's what it was," said Vols senior C.J. Watson.

No, it was more than a dogfight. Georgia was a dogfight. This was a war.

"I'm numb," said UT coach Bruce Pearl. "Numb and soaking wet."

Pearl had sweated through his suit in the first half. By the time the score got to 72-72 inside the final minute, he looked as if he had already been tossed in the shower.

But his brain was in better shape than his suit.

Following a Tennessee turnover, Florida called time out with 18 seconds to play to set up a last shot, a shot to keep the SEC East race going down to the final day of the regular season.

"At that moment," Pearl said later, "I didn't want Florida to have the last possession. I wanted to try to make a play."

Pearl aligned the Vols in a set called "55 side" and put Major Wingate in to pressure the Gators' Corey Brewer, who would throw the ball inbounds from the sideline in front of the scorer's table.

"All the credit goes to coach," said Dane Bradshaw. "We weren't sitting there saying we've got to get a stop. We were saying we've got to get a steal on the inbounds."

Pearl the prophet.

Here's a game that's been fought tooth and nail, no quarter given, for 39 minutes and 42 seconds and it's a stalemate.

And then it's decided by what Florida coach Billy Donovan described as "kind of a fluke play."

Wingate deflected Brewer's inbounds pass, intended for Al Horford.

"Coach is always telling me my on-the-ball performance on the out-of-bounds has got to pick up," said Wingate. "I think I did enough for the whole year with that."

Bradshaw and Watson went for the ball, along with Florida's Horford and Taurean Green.

"It (the inbounds pass) kind of looked like a (wounded) duck when it bounced," said Bradshaw. "I'm not going to beat C.J. in a race too many times, but this time I did."

All of a sudden Bradshaw popped free with the basketball and nobody between him and the basket.

Just like when he popped free in Knoxville on Jan. 21 with the score tied and made a layup to beat the Gators in the final seconds.

This time Bradshaw made a spin move into the clear and laid his shot over the rim and Tennessee led 74-72.

And then, having gotten their steal, the Vols got their stop. Chris Lofton tacked on free throws and Tennessee was a champion.

"I'm so happy for Tennessee I can't tell you," said Pearl.

"It's a tough place to be a student-athlete if you're not winning. Our kids will be able to hold their heads up pretty good."

The Quiet Storm

Watson became lightning rod for Vols

By Mike Griffith, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

February 27, 2006

Choirboy, ladies' man, gym rat, Internet fanatic and coach's pet ...

C.J. Watson has spent four years playing basketball at Tennessee, and his persona is as tough to peg as he is to guard.

On the court, Watson has established himself as one of the most-prolific point guards in UT history, rising to No. 2 on the all-time lists for assists and steals without much fanfare.

Part of that has to do with the Vols' relative lack of success entering this season; another part could be credited to his demeanor. Ask a question, you get a one-sentence answer, sometimes, maybe two.

Watson's playing style, however, speaks loudly for his talents.

Voted the most-competitive player by his teammates, Watson plays with an interior fire, whether he's dislodging a tooth from the mouth of Florida forward Joakim Noah, as he did with a sharp elbow Wednesday, or battling teammate Chris Lofton in a free-throw contest after practice.

As a junior in high school, Watson had the nickname "Quiet Storm" tattooed on his right

arm. It didn't go over too well with his parents, Charles and Cathy, at first.

But then, they knew C.J. wouldn't stray too far from the foundation in his life.

"C.J. is very religious at heart," said Cathy Watson, a social worker for outreach programs in Las Vegas. "He got the valedictorian in two years of the school of evangelism at our church, Second Baptist in Las Vegas. He was a junior layman; he went to the Bible bowl and competed."

Watson can recite scripture as effortlessly as he releases jump shots.

His favorite verse: Psalms 23: "The Lord is my shepherd ..."

"I stay involved in church all the time and help out any way I can," Watson said. "I love to read the Bible. I have Bible study once every week with my pastor."

Watson said he prays three or four times a day, including during basketball games: "Sometimes it helps."

Charles Watson believes the Lord blessed C.J. this season with the introduction of Bruce Pearl as UT's new head coach.

"It's hard to be a winner, come to a program with high expectations, and then see things go downhill," Charles said. "It was very frustrating for him to fight through that, but C.J. knew if he kept working hard, something good would come out of it.

"God was listening (to the prayers), and Bruce Pearl came along."

Immediately, the perceived shackles Watson felt he was playing with under Buzz Peterson were removed.

"Coach Pearl said 'Play your game,' " C.J. said.

And that meant shooting it more, as he did in leading Bishop Gorman High School to two Nevada state championships and twice winning Gatorade Player of the Year honors.

Watson worked particularly hard on his game entering this season, staying after practice most every day to groom his jump shot.

"You see him in the gym every night," backup point guard Jordan Howell said. "He's not a guy who talks a big game, but C.J. has a desire to be great."

According to guard JaJuan Smith, Watson's not afraid to talk game with the ladies.

"They say he's the Quiet Storm, but he has a mouthpiece on him," Smith said. "C.J. is a ladies' man. When a pretty girl comes through, that's when you hear it. If I'm out, and I see a girl who's hot, she'll ask me where C.J. is."

He might be checking out the Rivals.com point guard ratings on the Internet.

"Let's just say he has a special relationship with his sidekick cell phone," teammate Dane Bradshaw said. "You always see him on it on the Internet."

Watson found motivation for the Florida game after the rankings dropped him below Alabama point guard Ronald Steele in the wake of the Vols' loss to the Tide.

"They said Steele outplayed me," Watson said, the sour look on his face saying more than the words.

Watson's still doing a slow burn over the loss to Arkansas. When will he get over it?

"Probably not until the start of the (Kentucky) game Wednesday night," Watson said.

Pearl identified his point guard's competitive drive early on, and he has loved every moment of it.

"He goes by Quiet Storm, but I call him the Perfect Storm," Pearl said. "This league has the best point guards in the nation, so CJ's got to bring it every single day and night, and he does on most all occasions.

"There's the statistic we were 17-0 (now 17-1) leading with five minutes to go, and that's all point-guard play. You like having that extension of yourself and what you want to do on the floor."

Watson won't go quietly in final home game at UT

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

March 1, 2006

KNOXVILLE — C.J. Watson's patented smile spreads across his face.

Finally, he breaks out into a hearty, full-fledged laugh and bends over because he's laughing so hard.

The Tennessee senior point guard is anything but a standup comedian, at least publicly. His words are scarce, much like his turnovers.

But on this day, he can't quit laughing at teammate JaJuan Smith's characterization of the guy most people know simply as "the Quiet Storm."

"He ain't quiet," chortled Smith, who rooms with Watson on the road. "Sometimes I've got to tell him, 'Stick to your name and be quiet.' He'll call you too much, at the wrong times and stuff. He's funny, a real funny guy."

And if there's an attractive woman anywhere in the vicinity, Smith said Watson transforms into a regular Casanova.

"Let a good-looking girl walk by," Smith said, shaking his head almost admiringly. "All his talking will come out then, and you're going to see the real side of C.J. That's when you've got to hit him and say, 'Be quiet C.J.' "

On the basketball court, Tennessee Coach Bruce Pearl has said often this season that the Vols have gone as Watson has gone.

"Where would we be without him?" Pearl said.

Watson, along with fellow seniors Andre Patterson, Stanley Asumnu and Eddie DeBro, will play his last home game tonight when the 11th-ranked Volunteers (20-5, 11-3) take on Kentucky at 7 p.m. in a sold-out Thompson-Boling Arena.

Even Watson couldn't have predicted this kind of finish to his career, especially after all the disappointment his first three years.

A starter in 113 of the 114 games he's played in, Watson has been the steadying force in the Vols' run to the Eastern Division championship this season. And after three years of sitting at home and watching the NCAA tournament on television, he'll be a part of college basketball's grandest event this season.

"It's gone by quick, but you want it to slow down now because we're winning this year," said Watson, who's second in the SEC to teammate Dane Bradshaw in assist-to-turnover ratio.

"Coming out here and leaving it all on the court this year has taken all the bad times the first three years away. I'm thankful for it."

No matter what happens the rest of the way, Watson said he will always remember fondly the way this team bonded together and developed unflappable chemistry. More than anything else, he said that was the key to this season's success.

"We know where everyone is going to be," Watson said. "We know who's going to take the shot and who's not going to take the shot. We know we can say something to somebody and they're not going to get mad and take it personally.

"The first three years were hard, but this has made it all worth it."

Watson comes from a close-knit family with Nashville roots. His parents, Charles and Cathy Watson, moved to Las Vegas before C.J. was born, but they both grew up in Nashville. Charles went to North High and played basketball there, while Cathy attended East High and also played basketball and ran track.

C.J.'s sister, Vonyetta, lives in Antioch, and he still has grandparents living in Middle Tennessee.

Despite the long trip from Vegas, Charles and Cathy have been regulars at games this season and they will be at every game the Vols play from here on out.

"It's been a blur after having three tough years," Charles Watson said. "What really makes it bad is the success that these guys are having now as opposed to the first three, and you hate to see it all end. You'd like to see him go through four years like this with this kind of attention and this kind of coach. But it's been great and fun."

C.J. jokes that one of the reasons he doesn't do much talking is that he was never able to get a word in around his parents. They're as outgoing as he is introverted.

While C.J. isn't a big talker on the court, his teammates say he's the fiercest competitor on the team.

Florida's Joakim Noah found that out the hard way last week when he was shadowing C.J. a little too closely after C.J. had ripped down a rebound late in that game. C.J. pivoted to get some room and drilled Noah with an elbow that knocked out one of Noah's front teeth.

At the end of games, Watson is always the one with the ball. He's one of the best free-throw shooters in the league, rarely turns it over and has gone to the glass harder this season than he ever has.

In a league filled with great point guards, Pearl said it's a close race between C.J. and Alabama's Ronald Steele as to who's the best.

"I know I wouldn't trade him for anybody else in the league," Bradshaw said. "You can't count all the things he does to make everybody else around him look better."

Instead of the "Quiet Storm," Pearl calls him the "Perfect Storm."

"He'll go down as one of the best point guards in the history of Tennessee basketball, and especially now that he's got a championship, that will add credibility to his legacy," Pearl said.

As for which game is better — the one on the court or the one off the court — Watson gives it a playful shrug and mutters sheepishly, "I don't know."

But with a wry grin, he adds, "My game with the women might be better, but I like basketball more."

Watson quiet yet intense

By Gentry Estes, *Chattanooga Times-Free Press*

March 1, 2006

KNOXVILLE — It's the final home game in a memorable season for the Tennessee basketball Volunteers, and they've made sure to bring the big guns.

Plans are to welcome visiting Kentucky at 8 tonight with a "human checkerboard," courtesy of orange or white shirts supplied to the entire lower level of a sold-out Thompson-Boling Arena. Ray Mears and John Ward will be honored at halftime.

It should be passionate and emotional — a storm, but hardly a quiet one. This will be the setting for point guard C.J. Watson's final home game at Tennessee, allowing him again to dodge the spotlight and reflect pensively in the shadows.

It's exactly how he likes it.

"It's gone real fast, these four years," Watson said.

He grew up in the neon of Las Vegas, a desert-bred basketball player who found his favorite sport of football too rough and his eventual collegiate choice far away. His real name is Charles, and he always played point guard, wearing No. 32 because Magic Johnson did.

In 11th grade, his sister dubbed him "The Quiet Storm," and it stuck.

"It's because I don't say much," Watson said.

The nickname is etched into his right arm, and it fits the tranquil Watson like "The Glove"

suits NBA star Gary Payton. Similar builds, styles and games, but it ends there. The outspoken Payton is known for his lip service on the court.

Watson surely isn't that way. Never has been, and even playing for zealous coach Bruce Pearl hasn't changed his nature.

"When he's saying something to you," teammate Dane Bradshaw said, "he must really mean it."

Everyone understands the "Quiet" part. One must look harder to see the "Storm," but it's there.

Beneath Watson's cool exterior lies a hardened competitor. As recent proof, there was the errant elbow to knock out one of Joakim Noah's teeth during last week's victory at Florida.

"Very competitive," said Pearl, nodding his head and shutting his eyes. "You know that in free-throw contests. You know that in watching him prepare. He gets pretty quiet. He prepares like I do.

"Believe it or not, I'm pretty quiet in the locker room before a game."

For three years, Watson has been one of the best players on underachieving Vols teams. This year, he's the silent catalyst on the overachieving group that turned past frustration into a championship run that has transfixed a once-fizzled fan base. He will leave Tennessee as one of the more decorated players in the program's history, but you'd hardly know it.

"I call him 'The Perfect Storm,'" Pearl said. "He just does it all for us."

Heading into tonight, Watson is second all-time on the school's lists of assists (564) and steals (192). He ranks fifth in games started with 113, six behind former Vols point guard Tony Harris.

This season, he's the team leader in minutes, assists and free throws.

No matter how it all ends, Watson and fellow seniors Stanley Asumnu, Eddie DeBro and Andre Patterson can depart satisfied that Vols basketball is in a better shape than how they found it.

"It's not individuals this year — it's about the team," Asumnu said. "We've been through the struggles and the hard times. We're just trying to put this university in the right direction, and we've done it." Of those departing seniors, Pearl thinks Watson, right now, is a career NBA contributor.

"C.J. will make an NBA roster," Pearl said. "He's just going to be one of those guys that will play in the league a long time."

Hearing this, Watson would like to believe it. His aspirations are in basketball, even if he won't self-promote like some collegiate stars. But Tennessee's first-year coach has bragged nearly all season about Watson.

Sometimes it's with shouts. Other times are whispers to inner circles of reporters about how Watson outplayed a certain point guard on another team and isn't getting his just due.

Or maybe, it's by personalizing Watson with some of the off-court gossip the guard would never mention. After all, he comes from a place where the slogan is "What happens here, stays here."

"Maybe I'm ratting him out here," Pearl said with a sly smile. "I've not seen C.J. with many girls, but the girls that I've seen him with are off the charts. I think C.J. has got some serious game that we all don't know about."

Orange Nation, Indivisible

Student excitement plain to see in wake of men's basketball revival

By Mark Burgess, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

March 4, 2006

They could have been sleeping.

In the old days - like last year - that would have been the obvious option for most University of Tennessee students.

Sarah Hughes and Ashley Bales had other ideas. Their mission was to beat the crowd.

The two UT freshmen snubbed a warm bed to get up around 8 a.m. They bundled up, left their dorm room and went out in a freezing rain to stand in line.

Sleep wasn't even on the radar.

By 10 a.m., they were the first UT students in line at Thompson-Boling Arena for the 3 p.m. men's basketball game on Feb. 4 against Mississippi.

That's right, five hours before tipoff, and it was a game with Ole Miss. Not Florida. Not Kentucky.

Hughes and Bales are just two examples of the renaissance of passion among UT students for Vols basketball.

"There's so much excitement," Hughes said, also admitting that she likes to get an up-close and personal look at junior forward Dane Bradshaw.

"You can see how coach (Bruce) Pearl relates to the players and he relates really well with the students," she said.

Pearl had his own mission after being hired to resurrect a dormant program.

He visited dorms. He stood on chairs in cafeterias and exhorted students to buy into UT basketball.

At first, the response was resounding doubt.

Four years of no NCAA tournament berths created a malaise among the student faction.

All that changed this season.

The Vols started winning and Pearl's vision for student participation took off.

One student regular is Tim Ainger, a senior psychology major.

He's the guy in the big, orange-foam cowboy hat, a crowd favorite this season.

"Coach Pearl knows how to play off people's positives," Ainger said. "He knows at this university, even if we had a UT tiddlywinks team, there would be 100,000 people who could potentially get excited about it because there's so much pride in the University of Tennessee."

Students were hungry for something to get excited about during the winter months.

"He got here and he played to that perfectly," Ainger said. "He aroused enough spirit in people to get them to come out for that first time. Once that started happening, it was just magic.

"He knows what he's doing. The man's a genius on the court and off the court."

Rocky Top rowdies Unlike the freshmen Hughes and Bales, Ainger remembers what it was like last year.

"I remember being able to walk up to a game 20 minutes after it started and sitting in the front row," he said. "For the Florida game (this year), we were out there six or seven hours before the game started and we still weren't first in line."

Pearl has created almost a cult following among the Orange Nation of UT students.

A few go so far as to put on the their best white dress shirt accompanied by an orange tie and orange suspenders - a la Pearl.

Tony Clabough, a senior in microbiology, is one of those guys.

"I might have come to one game last year, maybe Kentucky," Clabough said. "It just wasn't that fun to come watch. There wasn't any energy. Things are a lot different now."

Senior Josh Cooper can testify.

"It's normally a football buzz around here, but lately it's all about basketball," Cooper said.

"People come up to you and they don't ask if you're going to the game, they ask what time are you going to leave to get to the game."

Pearl's princess Jacqui Pearl, the oldest of four Pearl children, is one of the UT students caught up in the excitement.

She's a UT sophomore majoring in secondary education.

She's also the person who actually unpacked Pearl's sweat-stained gray suit after a victorious trip to Florida.

"It was awful," Jacqui said. "It was funny though."

Jacqui has become a celebrity in her own right as a part-time national anthem singer prior to UT games.

The move from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee has been eased by her father's success and the renewed interest in the program.

"I had no idea it would be this big," Jacqui said. "They told me it was a fishbowl when we moved down here, and everything was going to be a bit more magnified than it was in Milwaukee, but I don't think any of us expected it to be like this."

As far as Jacqui is concerned, she's just another UT student caught up in the excitement.

"You see these sections fill up and students jumping around and being loud," she said. "They're the energy. They pick it up and get it going.

"As far as I know, the spirit about basketball around campus this year compared to last year has just gone through the roof."

Hamilton's delight That "through the roof" excitement is exactly what UT athletic director Mike Hamilton hoped to see when he hired Pearl last spring.

"I've said from the beginning our goals were twofold as it related to Tennessee and the arena," Hamilton said. "We wanted to bring the students back and have people sample our product.

"We believed if that would happen people would come in waves, and they have."

It was Pearl's idea to create an open section behind one of UT's goals for a standing-room-only student section.

First come, first serve. That's why the students were at the gate five hours before game time.

"The energy in this arena starts with our students, particularly this area down in the end zone," Hamilton said.

"We averaged 575 students a game last year. Obviously that's up significantly with some great student crowds. I just really appreciate them being a part of it."

The home season is now finished, with the Vols, 21-6 after Saturday's win over Vanderbilt, awaiting the Southeastern Conference tournament in Nashville and an impending bid to the NCAA tournament.

For Hamilton, it was just fun seeing the look on the players' faces as they walked down through the crowd prior to games.

"You want to feel like your classmates are supporting you," he said. "Those are the guys you're seeing as you walk to different classes during the week.

"Our guys can hold their heads high, and I'm sure they're getting a lot of high fives and 'attaboys' on the way to class. That probably means as much to them as anything."

Color me a Volunteer

Some UT basketball fans use body paint to show team spirit

By Rachel Kovac, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

March 4, 2006

Like finger painting for children, body painting has become an art form for some University of Tennessee fans.

Before men's basketball home games, paintbrushes and fingers transfer gallons of orange and white body paint from plastic jugs to the bodies and faces of enthusiastic UT students.

It's an intricate process that for the truly dedicated requires more than just a pom-pom on the cheek or a "T" on the upper arm. It takes time and preparation to put together a good display.

Daniel Edmunds, 21, and his friends once again proved that they are up for the task at Wednesday's game against the University of Kentucky. The No. 11 Vols play Vanderbilt today at 2 p.m. (WVLT Channel 8). The five UT students didn't have enough to spell Tennessee, but they made V-O-L-S and Bruce Pearl look good.

"The big tubs of paint came out, and we slapped it on," said Edmunds, who sported a white chest and back with an orange "V" on his front and "T" on his back.

He, along with Blake Rust, 20, Jonathan Harris, 21, and Mimi Slagle, 18, sported VOLS, and Ben Tan, 21, went all out, painting on orange suspenders and an orange tie in a tribute to head coach Pearl.

To make sure they could see and be seen, the group spent the night under the stars at Thompson-Boling Arena. Arriving at 8 p.m. Tuesday, the friends were assured any seat they wanted when the student gates opened at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

"We used to get a lot better seats without coming so early," joked Tan as he stood in the front row of the student-section seats.

While to the casual observer it might look easy to create a work of art on your body, Edmunds admitted that it's a little more difficult than he first thought.

"You've got to have help," he said. The friends painted each other up - making sure the white paint covered the upper body and the orange letters were all about the same size.

For Slagle, it was a little easier because she didn't bare her chest, but she did sacrifice a new white tank top for the "S" when her friends talked her into painting herself up before the game.

And students use everything to get the paint on - cotton swabs, cotton balls, paintbrushes, popsicle sticks, sponges and fingers. Edmunds estimated that it takes about an hour to complete the process if you don't make the design too intricate and switch up the colors too much.

The paint may require touch-ups, but that becomes complicated once the game begins. The white paint was already flaking off Harris' arms shortly before tip-off.

Getting the paint off that's another complicated process. Some of the paints wash off with a little soap and water. Others require alcohol and may stain those white shower tiles orange.

To help ease the hours of scrubbing and days of walking around with an orange tint, some students slather on lotion or talcum powder or even a little bit of oil before painting up.

But Rust said removing the paint doesn't test his patience and that he is encouraged by more students getting involved in men's basketball, which he has supported even when the team was losing.

"I think it's great," Rust said. "We need more of it."

As Pearl took to the court to thank students for coming out to the game, the cheers stopped all conversation.

"It's what I came here for," Pearl said Thursday. "Certainly when you're married with four children, you aren't going to paint yourself. It's going to make great experiences. Nothing we've done this year that's been more pleasing to me than making supporting college athletics part of the college experience."

Cold-shooting Lofton heats up when it counted

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

March 4, 2006

NASHVILLE -- Chris Lofton kept firing that sweet-looking three-ball Saturday at Vander bilt. Funny thing, he kept missing, too.

"I didn't know what was going on," said Frank Lofton, his dad, watching Tennessee's struggles from the Memorial Gym stands. "I've seen him do that a time or two, not too often."

The best 3-point shooter in the SEC missed his first seven tries.

"I'm like, 'Man, am I ever going to make one?' " said Lofton.

At long last he did, his eighth attempt. Then he missed two more.

"It was kind of weird," said teammate Stanley Asumnu. "We're in there at night (after practice) getting up shots and you see him standing there, making shots, making shots.

"To see him in this game ... "

Missing shots, missing shots ...

But nobody was feeling as uneasy about this development as Andre Patterson.

The Vols' self-described class clown was secretly wishing he could take back his latest jest - especially after Lofton bricked a free throw to snap his streak at 38 in a row and miss tying the school record.

"I had told Chris he must have sold his soul to the devil for a jumper like that," Patterson confessed. "I said I was going to pray for God to give it back to him."

With Vanderbilt up 16 early in the second half, the Vols looking as limp as week-old lettuce and Lofton's heavenly jumper kicking off the rim, Patterson was thinking maybe somebody up there didn't have a sense of humor.

But then Lofton's 11th 3-point try made everything OK.

The Vols were clinging to a hard-fought 59-57 lead when Dane Bradshaw drove into the paint, drew a crowd of Commodores and kicked the ball out to a wide-open Lofton at the head of the key.

Swish!

UT was up 62-57 with 1:09 to play and on its merry way to a stunning 68-59 come-from-way-behind victory to close out the regular season.

When Lofton let 'er rip that last time, coach Bruce Pearl was standing on the baseline under the basket like a beacon in his orange blazer, giving it all the body English he could.

"Automatic," thought Asumnu.

"With (Lofton) and a wide-open look?" said Bradshaw. "I was already getting back on defense."

So the SEC's best 3-point shooter finished his worst 3-point-shooting day as a Vol at 2-of-11.

But forget that. This wasn't his worst scoring day as a Vol. Inside the arc, Lofton sank six of seven shots.

Showing a resourcefulness that bodes well for the final two years of his career, he hustled up 21 points, every one of them vital to a team trying desperately to regain momentum for the postseason push.

He got his first basket of the game by pump-faking a defender into the air and driving to kiss the ball off the glass. Same for his second bucket.

"Everybody knows I'm a 3-point shooter," he said. "I saw 'em jumping every time I put on the head-fake so I tried to go to the hole and get some easy buckets."

Vandy led 37-21 when Lofton made his next drive for a basket. That was the turning point.

When he finally hit a trey, it cut the gap to 44-37.

"I can't quit shooting," said Lofton. "I've got to stay aggressive."

His next basket was a layup after C.J. Watson's steal off Tennessee's press. That one got the Vols even, 44-44.

With Vandy up 45-44, Lofton rebounded a Commodore miss and dribbled the length of the court to give the Vols their first lead.

With 4:08 left, he stripped the ball from Derrick Byars and raced for a layup to tie it 54-54.

Vandy was preoccupied with Lofton's long-range game, and rightfully so. But his short-range game was the new dimension.

"They did a good job of hedging out and taking the 3-point line away," said Pearl. "To a smart player's credit, he goes and takes it off the bounce and scores."

So it didn't turn out to be Lofton's worst day as a Vol after all.

On the contrary, it might have been his best.

Pearl lets worn-down Vols revive themselves for rally

Mark Wiedmer, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*

March 5, 2006

NASHVILLE — Tennessee forward Stanley Asumnu kept glancing at the Memorial Gym scoreboard Saturday afternoon. He kept wincing as the Vanderbilt lead grew and grew and grew against the low-voltage Vols.

"I was thinking that if we didn't do something quick," the senior reserve said, "it was going to be a very long bus ride home."

Not three minutes into the second half, the UT bus driver was probably already revving up the engine. The 11 th-ranked Vols trailed 37-21 at that moment after being 10 down at intermission.

"We'd lost three of our last four," Asumnu said. "You really don't want to lose four of five going into the (SEC) tournament. But it looked like the game was about to be out of reach."

Sitting on the team's bench in the Memorial end zone, UT coach Bruce Pearl was trying to find the words or deeds to ignite a comeback. He had already tried screaming. And cheering. And counseling.

Finally, he decided to ignore them.

"A lot of times when you see the coaches huddle during a timeout," Pearl said, "you'll see the players huddle separately. I needed this one to be their decision. I needed them to decide, 'Are we done yet? Is that it?'" It was a question that began circulating in earnest throughout the Big Orange Nation following Wednesday's home loss to Kentucky. At that moment, UT had lost two straight home games and seemed on the verge of a meltdown after winning 10 of its first 11 SEC games.

To make matters worse, many of the key performers for the Vols during this fai

irytale season were experiencing nightmare games against the Commodores. Point guard C.J. Watson was 0-for-5 from the floor in the opening half, with four turnovers. Chris Lofton missed badly on all three of his 3-pointers. The hugehearted Dane Bradshaw had a huge zero in the scoring column and one tiny rebound in 14 first-half minutes.

"We're a tired basketball team," Pearl said. "I can't tell you how much Florida (at Gainesville) took out of us."

No victory in Big Orange history may have been more costly. In its next two games, UT blew 13-point leads at home against both Arkansas and Kentucky. Now it was 16 down to Vanderbilt and Pearl was turning the season over to the team.

"We had to bounce back," Lofton said. "We may not always win, but we're always going to fight."

Lofton was mostly fighting himself, fighting to find the rim, fighting to lift his struggling teammates.

"I felt so bad," he said. "They were playing good defense. But I was just missing."

With 17:11 to play, Lofton hit a jumper to pull the Vols within 14. Then he got his second defensive rebound of the game. Finally, he hit a 3-pointer to pull UT within seven with 10 minutes to play. A Lofton layup a minute later tied the game at 44, completing a 23-7 Vols run.

And at the same time Lofton was returning to Lofton form, Asumnu was finally looking like the prep sensation he once was in Texas. He got offensive and defensive rebounds. And assists. And a key putback with 5:34 to play to cut a nervous three-point Commodore cushion to one.

Then Stormin' Stanley did something he almost never does. A 48 percent free-throw shooter on the season, Asumnu hit two free throws with 4:56 to go to give the Vols a 52-51 lead.

"That was a big turnaround for us," Watson said of Asumnu's effort. "That got our momentum going."

And once UT's momentum got going, Vanderbilt's went in reverse, the Commodores coughing up 12 second-half turnovers after committing just four in the opening period.

"They were panicking," Asumnu said. "The pressure was getting to them. They were throwing the ball all over the place."

Finally, the Vols again in front by a slender point with just under two minutes to play, Bradshaw found himself all alone just left of center behind the 3-point line. A tender right wrist has curtailed his shooting of late, but as the pass from Watson hit his hands, he heard Pearl yell, "Stick it!" Bradshaw cocked and fired. Swish. The Vols led 59-55. They won 68-59, outscoring the Commodores 47-22 in the game's final 17:22. "I knew I was going to be open," he said with a smile. "I'm just glad I could obey (Pearl's) order."

And the rest of the Orange Nation is glad its magical basketball season isn't done yet.

Team Pearl creates converts

Players, fans buy into Vols' system, success

By Marlon W. Morgan, Memphis *Commercial Appeal*

March 8, 2006

Allan Houston recently attended a Tennessee basketball game at Thompson-Boling Arena, his first time at a Volunteers game since his playing career ended there in 1993.

What he found was an atmosphere he was more accustomed to seeing at a Lady Vols game. A raucous crowd of more than 22,000 was on hand to witness Tennessee's return home after just beating Florida for a second time, giving the Volunteers their third Southeastern Conference Eastern Division title.

It was enough for the former two-time All-American and school's career leading scorer to be convinced this was the start of something special in Knoxville.

"That's what this program has the potential of doing," Houston said. "Whatever I can do to help it, hopefully I can do that."

Men's basketball is officially back at Tennessee, the place where football and women's basketball have ruled. The Volunteers (21-6) enter this week's SEC tournament ranked 14th in the Associated Press poll after reaching as high as No. 8.

Not only did Tennessee rediscover its winning ways this season, but the Vols reconnected with a fan base starving for a team capable of competing with Kentucky and Florida.

"We've always been a football school," said Tennessee junior Josh Wells, 20, of Lenoir City. "We've had good players, but finally they're being productive. (coach) Bruce (Pearl) has managed to get everything he can out of them."

Long before Pearl began installing his uptempo, fullcourt pressing brand of basketball, he was out connecting with students, faculty, alumni and fans. From the moment he replaced former coach Buzz Peterson, Pearl was out selling his team to the public.

"The first time we saw him was at a baseball game last spring," Wells said. "He came and gave us a little pep speech. Since then, he's everywhere. I never saw Buzz anywhere. I saw him on the court hitting the scorer's table, or something. Bruce is interacting and everybody's bought into it."

Tennessee had five crowds of more than 20,000 attend Thompson-Boling Arena this season, which seats 24,000. Its season average of 17,954 (up 5,728 per game from last year) was the highest since 1988-89 season, and third-highest since Thompson-Boling Arena opened for the 1987-88 season.

"I think at first they came out to watch us play because of the way we were playing," Pearl said. "We were pressing. We were running. We were playing hard. Now they're coming out probably because we're winning.

"I do appreciate it. We wouldn't be doing half of what we're doing without the fans. We had 1,500 travel to Georgia. That was special. We probably don't win that game without that kind of crowd and that kind of following."

In an age where dealing with fans and alumni is something some coaches dread, Pearl delights in getting to know everyone who crosses his path.

Before a practice leading to his team's home game against Arkansas, Pearl headed courtside toward a group of female soccer recruits who were in town with their parents during a recruiting trip. Pearl introduced himself and began telling them about what the life of a Tennessee athlete on campus was like and how supportive each program was of the others.

As his team took the court for practice, Pearl then called over a student manager and told him to take a picture him and a fan who came out to watch practice.

"How much more effort does it take to spend a minute, or two, with somebody instead of just saying hi and walking away," Pearl said. "You've made a fan. I feel like it's my responsibility to treat people that way. I know how important it is to the fans."

Pearl said he also wanted to his players to enjoy the lofty status that other Tennessee athletes receive on campus.

"One of the things that bothered me deeply is our athletes in the men's basketball program, they just weren't able to carry themselves on campus like everybody else," he said. "Everybody else is champions, from the Olympic sports to the women's (basketball) program to the football team. We're really holding up our end and we've gotten the public to help us. We've gotten the students to help us. Now our athletes can feel a little bit better about themselves."

The students have definitely connected with this team. Before the season, Pearl had the chairs removed from the student section behind one of the backboards, allowing them to stand for the entire game and get as rowdy as they want to be.

"Everybody's into it," said Christina Austin, a 21-year-old senior from Jackson. "Over there (in the other student section), everybody's telling you to sit down. It's very exciting now."

While Pearl, who was hired after taking his Wisconsin-Milwaukee team to the Sweet 16 a year ago, envisioned this type of success at Tennessee, even he is somewhat surprised it happened this soon.

He took a team that was 14-17 last year, and turned it into the surprise team of the league. Pearl said a lot of things factor into the team's success.

For starters, he believes his backcourt tandem of senior C.J. Watson and sophomore Chris Lofton are better than were advertised at the start of the season. The stats bear that out as Lofton finished fourth in the league in scoring at 17.5 points per game, while setting a Tennessee single season record with 103 3-pointers. Watson was eighth in scoring (15 ppg), and dished out 4.15 assists per game.

He also gives credit to assistant coaches Tony Jones and Jason Shay, who he brought with him from Wisconsin-Milwaukee along with director basketball operations Ken Johnson. And to assistant coach Scott Edgar, who spent the last three years at UAB and also was an assistant at Arkansas for six seasons under Nolan Richardson.

LSU coach John Brady, who guided his team to the SEC regular season title, believes Pearl brought the one missing ingredient to the Vols program.

"I don't necessarily know if it's the style as much as the belief that the players have in what they're doing," Brady said. "We always thought Tennessee had good players, particularly on the perimeter."

Regardless of what happens the rest of the way, having seniors like Watson and Stanley Asumnu be able to go out winners, and enjoy their first trip to the NCAA Tournament is what has made this season worthwhile to Pearl.

"I think the most enjoyable part of the season has been seeing the faces of these kids," said Pearl, before pausing as tears rolled down his cheek. "Nothing even comes close. I can't even say it without getting emotional. The players are having so much fun. ... These players deserve it."

With the success Pearl has enjoyed this season, he realizes he has set the bar high. His task now is not to be a one-hit wonder. Because of the support being shown his team, Pearl is confident that won't happen.

"Anybody can win a lot of basketball games, but not many people can do what we're doing here," he said. "It's why I think we'll build this program into a national power."

SEC has some real hot-shots

UT's Lofton maybe best pure shooter in league

By Chris Low, *The Tennessean*

March 9, 2006

Ask Chris Lofton if he's the best shooter in the Southeastern Conference, and he breaks into a bashful grin.

"I don't know. I'll let other people decide that," Lofton said.

Others have.

Georgia Coach Dennis Felton called Lofton as good a contested shooter as he's ever seen. Florida Coach Billy Donovan said he's the kind of shooter that at times renders defenses helpless. Auburn Coach Jeff Lebo called him the J.J. Redick of the SEC.

As the game has evolved over the years, many have complained that pure shooters have been replaced by slashers and dunkers.

Lofton, though, is from the old school.

His range extends well past the 3-point line. He can shoot it off the catch, shoot it off the dribble and has one of the sweetest strokes in college basketball.

He also has a bit of a backward lean when he elevates, making his shot difficult to block.

There are no magic formulas to being a great shooter, said Lofton, who will have to wait

until tomorrow before taking the court at the Gaylord Entertainment Center for the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament, which tips off today with a noon game between South Carolina and Mississippi State. The Vols have a first-round bye.

"It's practice and hard work," said Lofton, who led all players in SEC games with 61 3-pointers and a 46.9 shooting percentage from 3-point range. "You're not just going to be born with it. You have to work at it and work hard at it."

Here's a look at the 10 best shooters in the SEC this season, the kind of guys that make 20-footers look more like lay-ups:

1. Chris Lofton, Tennessee

He's on track to make 400 3-pointers for his career. He made 93 as a freshman and has 103 this season, entering the SEC Tournament.

2. Lee Humphrey, Florida

If only the Gators could keep Humphrey off his bicycle. He's been coming off the bench since injuring his shoulder.

3. Shan Foster, Vanderbilt

Has an awkward-looking shot with a high release point, which makes it impossible to block. Not affected by defenders in his face.

4. Darrel Mitchell, LSU

The only knock on Mitchell is that he can shoot you out of a game if he's not on. But when he's on, he's something to see.

5. Patrick Sparks, Kentucky

The weird thing with Sparks is that he's been a better shooter on the road this season than at home.

6. Ronald Steele, Alabama

He's made himself into one of those shooters you simply can't leave, which makes him even more dangerous as a point guard.

7. Levi Stukes, Georgia

One of five players in the SEC to enter the tournament shooting better than 40 percent from 3-point range in all games.

8. Taurean Green, Florida

Especially good off the dribble, Green seemed to wear down these last few weeks and didn't shoot it nearly as well.

9. Derrick Byars, Vanderbilt

An unselfish player who doesn't take a lot of shots. But when he takes them, he makes them. Very good mid-range shooter.

10. Reginald Delk, Miss. St.

The best freshman shooter in the league, Delk gets it naturally. His uncle, Tony Delk, could also stroke it.

Pearl has a system to his madness

By John Brice, Nashville *The City Paper*

March 9, 2006

KNOXVILLE — In the interest of full disclosure, there is an anomaly on Bruce Pearl's coaching résumé.

The document, which outlines Pearl's Xs and Os evolution preceding what appears to be his overnight resurrection of the University of Tennessee basketball program, credits a student assistant position at Boston College as his initial coaching venture. That simply isn't true.

A two-sport athlete who initially preferred football rather than basketball, Pearl coached before he ever left high school. A knee injury robbed him of his junior and senior seasons.

"He coached younger kids, which he liked to do at that age," said his father, Bernie Pearl, a spitting image of Bruce minus the curly salt-and-pepper hair. "He ran for president of his class and got elected. He was class clown. I don't know how you get to be class president and class clown."

Yet Bruce Pearl, who grew up in Sharon, Mass., about 25 miles from Boston, never thought too much about his early start pacing sidelines, encouraging and teaching young players, leading his classmates.

"I always coached, always coached little kids even when I was playing in high school," said Pearl, tapped last spring to transform Tennessee's program into a prince after his Wisconsin-Milwaukee squad filled Cinderella's slipper in the 2005 NCAA Tournament. "And I just used to referee and umpire. I guess some people say I still do. But I always just was around it. I never thought about it as an occupation. I was just always around it. I never thought that was what I was going to do; I was going to get a degree and get a regular job. Boy, in hindsight that was ... "

Pearl stops and lets the sentence hang out there unfinished. He shakes his head from side to side. He doesn't say it, but he knows. Envisioning himself shackled behind a desk is awfully hard to do, even though he graduated cum laude with a business administration degree from Boston College in 1982. It's an image as hard to come to terms with as Tennessee bouncing back from abject mediocrity and winning its first Southeastern Conference Eastern Division crown since 2000.

It took the effervescent Pearl, who spent his first six months in Knoxville selling the program like a demo tape on Music Row, to sweat it out of the Volunteers. Now, Tennessee, which swept Florida; split with Kentucky; and won at Texas, is the SEC East's top seed for this week's league tournament at Gaylord Entertainment Center.

"I think he did a lot for us just to believe in him and believe in his system," senior point guard C.J. Watson said. "After a while, everybody started believing in his system and believing in him and knowing that he can get us where we wanted to be. That's where we are now. Being SEC East champions and trying to go into the (NCAA) Tournament and make some noise there. I think he sold it to the community with all he had to give."

And Tennessee gave Pearl the chance to prove his frenetic system — an offshoot of mentor Dr. Tom Davis' brand of basketball — outside of America's mid-major conference heartland.

Pearl's first head-coaching stop was at Southern Indiana, where he won the 1995 NCAA D-II title and 231 games from 1992-2001. When he left for Wisconsin-Milwaukee, his four seasons there represented the program's most successful stretch — a pair of NCAA Tournament berths and three consecutive 20-win seasons.

Yet Tennessee offered that which Pearl coveted — a chance to secure his family's financial future while testing his coaching tenets in a major conference. Pearl's current UT deal pays him $800,000 annually, and he's registering at least a $45,000 bonus for winning the SEC East while guiding the Vols into next week's NCAA Tournament. Tennessee is negotiating a new pact expected to have Pearl's salary crowding $1.5 million. He made $275,000 last season at Milwaukee.

"The fact of the matter is that in one year I could make what it would take me three years to make. The other factor was I always challenge my players to be the best they can be, and …you've got to make hay when the sun shines," Pearl said. "I understand that I had a good record, but look, the fact I got to the Sweet 16, that's it. You better take advantage of it when you get there because you never know when you're going to get there again.

"I just didn't want to ever sit on that front porch and be able to say, 'I wonder if I could have done it in the SEC or at that next level.' I'm not afraid to take a chance."

He's been taking them as a basketball coach ever since high school.

Pearl holds Capitol Hill pep rally

By Erik Schelzig, Associated Press

March 9, 2006

NASHVILLE — Tennessee basketball coach Bruce Pearl held a legislative pep rally on Capitol Hill Thursday, telling cheering lawmakers that the Volunteers have a good shot at winning the Southeastern Conference tournament this weekend.

Pearl, who in his first year as coach at Tennessee, has led the 14th-ranked team to a surprising 21-6 regular season record and the SEC East division title. The tournament began Thursday in Nashville.

"It's going to take three wins to win a championship," Pearl said in speech on the House floor. "And I think we're in a position to do so."

Pearl, who was joined by athletic director Mike Hamilton and university President John Petersen in appearances in the House and Senate chambers, said taking over the Tennessee basketball program was daunting task because of the school's strong sports tradition.

"It is not an easy place to work from the standpoint of student athletes on campus," he said. "We're surrounded by champions in every sport. We just felt basketball needs to hold up its end."

Pearl said the level of fan support has been almost as surprising as the team's performance.

"While our basketball team is slightly ahead of schedule, the support we have received is light-years ahead of schedule...," he said. "I'm proud to announce Tennessee will finish fifth in the nation: We averaged over 18,000 fans at Thompson-Boling Arena. Unbelievable."

Longtime legislators and staffers could not recall the last time a men's basketball coach addressed the General Assembly. Last year a legislative resolution honored Lady Vols coach Pat Summitt when she became the winningest coach in the NCAA.

The university earlier this week gave Pearl a raise and a two-year contract extension. Pearl's annual salary will go to $1.1 million on a deal that now runs through 2012, the university announced Wednesday.

Pearl was hired to replace Buzz Peterson, who was fired last year after four mediocre seasons.

Lawmakers greeted Pearl with standing ovations in the House chamber and clamored to pose for photographs with him afterward.

Petersen alluded to the coach's popularity in a later hearing before the House Finance, Ways and Means committee, joking to lawmakers that "if the questions get too hard, I'm going to go find Bruce Pearl."

Seed dreams are made of

By Mike Strange, *Knoxville News-Sentinel*

March 12, 2006

How the rest of the Big Dance turns out remains to be seen, but Tennessee is off to a rip-roaring start in the NCAA tournament.

As Selection Sundays go, it was a best-case scenario for the Vols - both for what happened and what didn't:

A No. 2 seed. Make that a stunning No. 2 seed.

A 2 vs. 15 match isn't a lock, but history shows at 95 percent, it's close.

Playing in Greensboro, N.C., the nearest venue. Kentucky, for one, has to go all the way to Philadelphia.

Alabama has to go all the way to San Diego. (On second thought, San Diego doesn't sound so bad).

Not playing against either Wisconsin-Milwaukee or Buzz Peterson.

The headliner is the seed. Nobody saw this coming, not a two.

A four, probably, if the selection committee members didn't punish the Vols too severely for their late slide. A five, if they did.

A three? Only if the committee has been sequestered in Mozambique the past two weeks while the Vols lost four of six games.

A two? No one in the Ray Mears Room on Sunday even considered the possibility.

And yet there it is.

"It's incredible," said coach Bruce Pearl.

That's sure to be the consensus from Baton Rouge to Boise to Bristol, Conn.

Incredible. Inexplicable?

Asked after the bracket was announced about UT's surprising seed, selection committee chairmain Craig Littlepage offered the obvious explanation:

The 12-4 SEC record; the No. 6 RPI ranking and No. 3 strength of schedule; the strong non-conference showing. In short, the Vols' entire body of work overshadowed the late stumbles.

"We just felt as though, in this case, that they were deserving of that position," said Littlepage, the athletic director at Virginia.

Or as UT senior Andre Patterson put it, "We went and played a lot of teams people didn't want to go play."

Did a team ever get more mileage out of a December win than the Vols got out of spanking (fellow No. 2-seed) Texas in Austin this year?

As for Greensboro, Pearl said he thinks it's a gesture to UT's fans because they haven't been in the tournament since 2001.

Public disclaimers to the contrary, the selection committee enjoys side plots.

UW-Milwaukee was the pairing nobody on Team Pearl wanted but the one they all feared. It is, of course, the school Pearl, three of his assistants and two of his managers led to the Sweet 16 last year before UT snatched him away.

"Oh, man," said associate head coach Tony Jones, "We didn't want to play Milwaukee because we want those kids to experience success and if they experience it by playing us, we don't experience it."

Said Pearl, "It would have been very difficult for our families. My wife was dreading it. It would have brought her to tears.

"I think the Milwaukee kids would have been licking their chops."

Instead, the chop-licking comes from Winthrop, which earned its bid by beating Peterson's Coastal Carolina team in the final seconds of the Big South Conference tournament.

That's the same Peterson whom UT fired last year on Selection Sunday.

"The NCAA always looks for interesting matchups," said UT athletic director Mike Hamilton, "and I realized that as Coastal was going down the stretch."

He also realizes Winthrop coach Gregg Marshall was a finalist for the UT job five years ago when Peterson was hired.

"Gregg Marshall," said Pearl, "is a guy up for jobs every year. Some search committee says, 'Who's out there that's the next Bruce Pearl?' Gregg Marshall is one of those guys."

Pearl got the UT job by knocking off Alabama and Boston College in last year's tournament. Maybe beating Tennessee on Thursday would get Marshall his big job.

The Vols have been handed a golden opportunity. But they have to remember it's not a free pass.