



Scott McClurg/Journal-World Photo

KANSAS UNIVERSITY'S CHRISTIAN MOODY, FRONT LEFT, DIVES for a ball against Bucknell's Chris Niesz in the first half. The Jayhawks' season ended with a 64-63 setback to the Bison on Friday in Oklahoma City.

## Bucknell coach: Victory 'surreal'

By Chuck Woodling

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OKLAHOMA CITY — Pat Flannery didn't need to be pinched. He knew what had happened wasn't a dream.

And yet the Bucknell University men's basketball coach had a strange feeling as he shook hands with Kansas University coaches and players following the Bison's stunning 64-63 victory over the Jayhawks.

"You look at Kansas, and it's almost surreal," Flannery said. "Four of their seniors had been in two Final Fours."

Flannery was quick to add, however, that his 14th-seeded Bison's victory over the No. 3-seeded Jayhawks was not a fluke.

"We played good basketball," said Flannery, now in his 11th year at the Lewisburg, Pa., school. "It wasn't a mistake. Maybe we were a little underrated, and maybe they were overrated."

Bucknell shocked the Jayhawks despite making only 40 percent of its shots, including a paltry eight of 31 from three-point range. But the Bison had only nine turnovers, and they



Thad Allender/Journal-World Photo

BUCKNELL PLAYERS SWARM THE COURT as the dejected Jayhawks walk off it after their first-round loss to the Bison.

played defense well enough to force Kansas to miss its last 10 shots.

All 14 of KU's points in the last eight minutes were at the free-throw line.

Chris McNaughton, a 6-foot-11 sophomore center from Germany, banked in the winning basket with a little jump hook

in the lane with :10.5 on the clock.

Asked what he was thinking at the time, McNaughton said: "I mean, what do you think in that situation? Make the shot, and you hope it goes in. It bounced off the backboard and rim and somehow went in."

Moments later, the Bison had to sweat out a last-ditch shot by KU's Wayne Simien, who took a perfect pass from Michael Lee and launched a turnaround 18-footer that fell off the left front of the rim.

"We tried to meet their guards," said Bucknell guard Charles Lee, but they ended up

getting a good pass. We were lucky."

Once Simien's shot bounced off the rim, the Bucknell bench erupted.

"It was just so exciting," guard Kevin Bettencourt said. "To see how hard we had to work to get to this point. We would not have been satisfied just to be here. We wanted to win. It was unbelievable."

Bucknell led 62-57 with 1:22 remaining, but KU scored the next six points, thanks in large part to an intentional foul called against Darren Mastropalo after he lost the ball to Lee.

"We've given up leads before," said Bettencourt, who led the Bison with 19 points, "but we're mature enough to pull it out. We didn't panic."

Cinderella wore an orange uniform Friday at the Ford Center.

"Certainly, this is the biggest win we've ever had," Flannery said, "and I'm happy for the Patriot League."

Bucknell (23-9) will meet Wisconsin in the second round at 3:50 p.m. Sunday.

— Sports editor Chuck Woodling can be reached at 832-7147.

## Gautt's passing leaves genuine sense of loss

OKLAHOMA CITY — What I remember most about Prentice Gautt is the way he shook hands, and, believe me, he grasped more mitts than a presidential candidate.

Perhaps you read his obituary on page 4B of Friday's Journal-World. A Lawrence resident, Gautt died unexpectedly Thursday at the age of 67.

Over the years, I've known Gautt in two bailiwicks — as an administrator for the old Big Eight Conference and later in a similar role in the Big 12, and as a member of First Presbyterian Church, where he could be described — even though it's a cliché — only as a pillar.



Gautt



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once with force and grace. And he maintained the grasp seconds longer than most people do.

Gautt's passing was a much bigger story in Oklahoma than it was in Lawrence. Gautt's obituary made the front page of The Daily Oklahoman, the largest newspaper in the Sooner State.

As the first black football player at Oklahoma University, he was an icon in his native state. OU was segregated until 1950, and final restrictions on undergraduate enrollment were not dropped until 1955. Gautt, who grew up in Oklahoma City, received an athletic scholarship two years later. "His moral courage helped

to bring racial justice, not only to our state and to intercollegiate athletics," OU president David Boren said, "but also to our entire nation."

Gautt went on to earn a masters and a doctorate in psychology from the Norman, Okla., school. At Kansas University, the student-support-services department is named after a contributor. Oklahoma's equivalent is called the Dr. Prentice Gautt Academic Center.

Boren recalled the day in 1999 when Gautt stood on the 50-yard line at OU's football stadium and was recognized as the academic center's namesake.

"It was the longest ovation I have ever witnessed in the stadium when it was announced the academic center would be named after him," Boren said.

The Daily Oklahoman also quoted OU athletic director Joe Castiglione, who described the noise as deafening. "And it went on and on," Castiglione said. "All of us were standing there, and the tears were running down our cheeks. I get

kind of choked up thinking about it."

Brewster Hobby, a former teammate, told the Oklahoma City paper that "anyone less of a gentleman than Prentice and anyone with less fortitude would have not allowed the black man to have a chance at Oklahoma."

If he had continued to reside in Oklahoma, Gautt surely would have become a living legend, sort of like former Negro League baseball player Buck O'Neil is in Kansas City or like former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden is in Los Angeles.

But instead, Gautt lived a low-profile life outside the Sooner State. He and his wife moved to Lawrence several years ago when she became an administrator at KU. While Sandra Gautt worked on Mount Oread, Gautt commuted to the Big Eight office in downtown Kansas City, Mo.

When the Big Eight morphed into the Big 12, and the office shifted to Dallas, in 1996, Gautt was the only member of

the league hierarchy who wasn't required to make the move. He didn't want to, and he didn't particularly need to because his main task was to visit the conference campuses and conduct reviews of the school's life-skills programs, interpret rules and administer the drug-testing program.

Gautt's legacy always will be that he was the first black football player at Oklahoma University, yet I'm sure he would have preferred to be remembered as a man who was more concerned about others than he was about himself.

His schooling in psychology and his religious faith often dovetailed and made him a respected and highly sought counselor. He was also a Stephen minister, a layman trained to help the ill and troubled deal with their pain.

I haven't talked to anyone who knew Prentice Gautt who doesn't feel a genuine sense of loss. I know I do.

— Sports editor Chuck Woodling can be reached at 832-7147.

## BRIEFLY

### Traditions

Believe it or not, Bucknell has been playing basketball longer than tradition-rich Kansas University. The Bison started play in 1896, as did Yale and Minnesota. KU started in February of 1899. Amazingly, the two programs never had met until Friday.

### Loyal fan attends

Bob Nelson, "the Ol' Jayhawk" and his wife, Eleanor, were on hand for Friday's game. The Ol' Jayhawk, who has been following the Jayhawks' fortunes for more than 60 years, recently was paid a high honor by ex-Jayhawk Dave Robisch.

Robisch had Nelson join him at center court while delivering his jersey retirement speech at halftime of the Oklahoma State game Feb. 27.

### No crystal ball

KU coach Bill Self didn't fill out an NCAA Tournament bracket this year.

"I don't know the last time I filled out a bracket. When I was at Oral Roberts and we were not eligible to go to the tournament was probably the last time. I focus on us now, not the other games," Self said.

### Midnight owls

Self didn't like the late start. "You don't want to play the early morning game, although after it you have the whole day, but the late game is tough because you go to bed at 2 or 2:30, and your day starts early the next day."

### Simien good with media

KU senior Wayne Simien has been gracious with reporters at the Oklahoma City pod as he has all season. But he admits he's not always a big fan of the interview this time of year.

"You just want to play ball sometimes, but answering a lot of questions comes with it," said Simien, a candidate for the Naismith and Wooden Awards. "The accolades and awards come out this time of year, and it's kind of uncomfortable for me because it's not me, it's my teammates. I thank them."

### TV time

Left with free time in OKC, Simien has been watching NCAA games on TV.

"I don't know too much bracketology, but I saw Pacific, Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Nevada, a lot of teams we played doing well," he said.

### OKC natives

J.R. Giddens and Darnell Jackson are hometown heroes. Giddens played his high school ball at nearby John Marshall High, while Jackson attended Midwest City High his senior season after attending inner-city NW Classen his first three years.

Both took walks down memory lane, crediting OKC for helping develop their skills.

"I played at the park, the boys and girls clubs," Jackson said. "When I was younger, I played against the inmates who were out of jail. It helped playing ball against the older guys in Oklahoma City."

Giddens also played at a different boys and girls club.

"I went there and met (Duke's) Sheldon Williams," he said of a club on 44th St. "We played on the same basketball team. Some guys on the team were better than me. That had never happened to me before. By the end of my second season, I was not the best, but in my mind I was one of the better players on my team."

"It took me awhile to get there. A lot of games people were doing better than me, people killing me in practice. Those guys got me to go on weekends. You fight and scrap after you lose a game. Inner-city basketball, every day, you walk down the street and kids are playing. A lot of older kids pushed me around, but it helped me."

### Schedule talk

KU still needs two games to complete next year's home schedule. The Jayhawks, who meet St. Joe's in Madison Square Garden and also travel to Georgia Tech and play in the Maui Invitational, will play host to Idaho State, Northern Colorado, Nevada, Pepperdine and Kentucky. KU will meet Cal in a home game at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Mo. Fort Hays State and Pittsburg State are slated to play the Jayhawks in exhibitions.