

# Kansas looks back for inspiration Tyson, Lewis to fight in Memphis in June

By STEVE BRISENDINE

*Associated Press Writer*  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — This much the Kansas Jayhawks know: Their season will end in Atlanta, at the Georgia Dome, in their first Final Four since 1993.

But you have to look five years back from then — to 1988's national championship team — to see what really drives this team.

"Our goal wasn't to reach the Final Four. It was to win the national championship," said junior forward Nick Collison, who scored 25 points and had 15 rebounds on Sunday as Kansas beat Oregon 104-86 in the finals of the Midwest Regional.

The other Kansas players echoed that sentiment: Now, nothing short of

the Jayhawks' first national title since 1988 — the year before Roy Williams took over as coach — will do.

"It was joy out there" celebrating the win over Oregon, freshman point guard Aaron Miles said. "But we know it's not done. We don't want it to stop here. It feels good to be one of the four teams that can possibly win the championship, but we want to be the ones to do it."

"We want to do it for coach Williams, because of all the things people have said about him, but we also want to do it for ourselves as a team," Miles said.

The Jayhawks, who meet Maryland in the national semifinals on Saturday, have held that goal since the preseason. Williams taped pictures of the Georgia

Dome in each player's locker, along with the message: "What did you do to get here today?"

"It was just kind of a reminder every day when you don't feel like practicing," Collison said. "You see that and realize what you're playing for."

What Kansas (33-3) did to get to Atlanta was sweep the Big 12 regular season, 16-0, and win its first two conference tournament games before being beaten in the finals by Oklahoma — another Final Four team.

Seeded No. 1 despite that loss, the Jayhawks held off Holy Cross 70-59, blew out Stanford 86-63 and scored a hard-fought 73-69 win over Illinois before running over the Ducks on Sunday.

Along the way, they weathered in-

jury (guard Kirk Hinrich's ankle sprain), foul trouble (Hinrich and Collison played just 37 total minutes against Illinois) and crowd hostility (Wisconsin fans have never forgiven Williams for comments they thought disparaged the Badgers' 2000 Final Four team and coach Dick Bennett.)

And in the end, they put to rest — for this year, anyway — Kansas' recent reputation for underachievement in the NCAA tournament.

"This means a lot," said All-American forward, Drew Gooden, who had 20 rebounds against Oregon. "I knew there were a lot of doubters out there. I know people have given Coach some heat in the past for not reaching goals. But coach Williams is a great coach. This is his year."

NEW YORK (AP) — One of the biggest fights ever was salvaged when promoters reached an agreement for Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis to meet for the heavyweight title June 8 in Memphis. The decision ends weeks of on-again off-again negotiations.

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\$100 million — and pay each fighter more than \$20 million — is now scheduled to take place at the 20,000-seat Pyramid arena, where ringside seats will fetch \$2,500.

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## Baseball Roundup

HAINES CITY, Fla. (AP) — B.J. Surhoff went 2-for-2, raising his average to .432, while driving in two runs as the Atlanta Braves topped the Kansas City Royals 7-3 Monday night.

The Braves, aided by two Royals errors and two walks, scored a pair of runs in the first inning.

Rafael Furcal led off the game with a walk and promptly stole second. The Braves shortstop advanced to third when Dan Reichert erred on a pick off attempt. He scored on Surhoff's single.

Chipper Jones scored on an Angel Berroa throwing error. Berroa also made a throwing error in the fourth inning, his seventh error in 21 exhibition games.

The Royals committed a total of five errors, raising their spring training total to 36 errors in 24 games.

Surhoff's third inning double scored Chipper Jones to give the Braves a 3-0 lead.

The Royals tied it with three runs in the fifth. Chuck Knoblauch drove in Berroa on a ground out.

Aided by two more Kansas City errors, the Braves tallied three runs in the eighth off losing pitcher Chad Durbin

(0-2). Travis Wilson and Matt Franco hit RBI singles.

Keith Lockhart scored the final run in the ninth after doubling.

Darren Holmes (2-0) worked two scoreless innings, allowing one hit, for the victory.

HAINES CITY, Fla. (AP) — Shortstop Angel Berroa, considered the Royals' top position player prospect, was optioned to Class AAA Omaha Monday night after a 7-3 loss to the Atlanta Braves.

Berroa hit .302 in 15 games with the Royals last year after being called up from Class AA Wichita in September. He hit .304 with 14 home runs in the minors last year with Wichita and Class A Wilmington (Del.)

This spring, Berroa hit .293 in 21 exhibition games, but also committed seven errors, including two throwing miscues Monday.

The Royals also reassigned infielder Josue Espada, who hit .313 in 14 spring training games, and outfielder Rontrez Johnson, who hit .182 in two games, to the minor league camp. Espada and Johnson were non-roster invitees to spring training.

PEORIA, Ariz. (AP) — Colorado fourth starter John Thomson pitched six scoreless innings Monday in the Rockies' 3-1 victory over the Seattle Mariners.

Thomson, who was 4-5 with a 4.04 ERA in 14 starts for the Rockies last season, gave up singles to ex-Rockies third baseman Jeff Cirillo in the first inning and Bret Boone in the fourth.

Thomson struck out seven and didn't walk a batter. He was elated to beat a quality Mariners' lineup.

"For some reason, I had them off balance today," he said. "I can't explain

it."

He said the victory boosted his confidence going into the regular season. "It really does," Thomson said. "Judging by some of the hitters' reaction and watching them in the box."

Mike James, Todd Jones and Jose Jimenez each pitched one inning for Colorado.

"Thomson has a good arm," Mariners manager Lou Piniella said. "He showed it. Thomson threw the ball very well. This was a very good spring training game. You don't see these type of games in Arizona all that often."

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