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Who dat Wildcat wideout? Ask Boone Senior's cheer keeps receivers loose and teammates impressed

By Michael Smith
mssmith@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

LEXINGTON, Ky. -- At the end of every University of Kentucky football practice, the players' procession from the field to the locker room is interrupted.

The Wildcats stop in their tracks and look toward the 10-or-so wide receivers who are gathered in a huddle, yelling loudly and throwing their arms into the air.

That's right, the receivers have their own cheer -- and it's come to signify the end of practice with the same authority as coach Guy Morriss' whistle.

Can something be so corny and so cool at the same time?

The cheer doesn't really have a name, but its originator, senior Aaron Boone, said it's a great way for his unit to come together at the end of a long, sometimes grueling workout and leave the field with smiles on their faces.

A few converts, mostly from the defensive backfield, have infiltrated the huddle over the course of the season. But make no mistake, the receivers are the caretakers of the cheer.

"I was trying to figure out what they're saying and I still don't know," defensive end Otis Grigsby said.

The cheer begins with Boone squatting down in the middle of the huddle while the other players whoop and holler.

Then Boone starts the cheer:

"Who dat, who dat talking about covering dem wideouts?"

The players in the huddle respond: "Who dat, who dat, say what?"

Boone again: "Who dat, who dat talking about covering dem wideouts?"

Players again: "Who dat, who dat, say what?"

Boone goes into a whisper, repeating the same line: "Who dat, who dat talking about covering dem wideouts?"



Aaron Boone, No. 13, is the ringleader and head chanter when UK's wide receivers perform their "Who Dat" cheer after practices and before games.

PHOTO BY STEWART BOWMAN

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Who: Tennessee
When: 12:30 p.m. EST



Players respond in a whisper: "Who dat, who dat?"

Saturday, Nov. 30.
Where: Knoxville, Tenn.

Boone's last refrain is the loudest, followed by the rest of the players at their loudest.

In the last few weeks, Boone and his cohorts added a twist to the ending. Now they raise their helmets to the sky and end the cheer with one last shout.

Boone started toying with the idea toward the end of last season, he said, but it didn't become a staple of UK's practice until this season.

"It came from different teams I've been on," said Boone, who played football and was student-body president at Millard High in Fillmore, Utah. "I just put my own together here."

Teammates and coaches almost always stop whatever they're doing and laugh, even though they've seen it every day since August.

"It's pretty cool," Grigsby said. "They got their thing going. It'd be nice if the defensive ends could get something going."

Center Nick Seitze gets a charge out of the cheer just as everybody else does, but he said not to expect the offensive line to break out in dances and cheers as long as he's around.

"That's just the receivers," he said. "Receivers are always loud and obnoxious. Not just our guys, all of them. That's something you won't ever see offensive linemen do. We don't draw attention to ourselves. We just stay off in our little corner, be quiet and do our thing. We'll let the receivers do their thing."

The UK receivers also do the cheer during pregame warm-ups. They end that one by shouting "Up on six" or "Up on seven," depending on what win they're going for.

When the Cats go to Neyland Stadium on Nov. 30 to play the season finale against Tennessee, the receivers will gather in an end zone, perform the cheer and end it by shouting, "Up on eight."

Eight wins would definitely be something worth shouting about.

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