

## SPORTS

BUSINESS, C6

DOW: 9,908.39 ▼103.84

DANICA'S NASCAR  
DEBUT SET FOR  
DAYTONA - C5SEC HONORS UK'S  
DUNLAP FOR 2ND  
STRAIGHT WEEK - C2

Fifth Third not backing off on Zayat takeover

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2010

UNSWEEP  
HOME  
ALABAMACousins' quick temper traces back  
to childhood taunts about his weight

By Jerry Tipton

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While repeatedly insisting that playing against home-state Alabama on Tuesday night represents "just another game," Kentucky forward DeMarcus Cousins acknowledged that many of his fellow Alabamans might be watching with special interest.

"Probably the whole state," he said.

Reporters chuckled. But for Cousins, whose playfulness delights the Kentucky media corps, this was

no laughing matter.

"Probably more people (in Alabama) are hoping for the worst than anything," he said.

When asked why people in Alabama might feel that way, Cousins said, simply, "I'm DeMarcus."

Cousins declined to discuss in depth the "bad situation" he said he endured as a high school player, first in Birmingham and then in Mobile. Suffice it to say, he seemed to attract attention for all the wrong reasons.

See UK, C4



MARK CORNELISON | STAFF FILE PHOTO

Kentucky's DeMarcus Cousins said playing high school basketball in Alabama was a "bad situation."

## ALABAMA AT KENTUCKY

When: 9 p.m. Tuesday TV: ESPNU Radio: WBUL-FM 98.1, WLAP-AM 630

Records: Alabama 13-10 (3-6 SEC); Kentucky 22-1 (7-1)

Series: UK leads 98-35 Last meeting: UK won 61-51 on Jan. 24, 2009, in Tuscaloosa.

Payton  
better off  
in Bayou  
than BlueSAINTS COACH ONCE  
COVETED UK JOBMARK  
STORY  
HERALD-LEADER  
SPORTS COLUMNISTFast-break points with  
Punxsutawney Polamalu:

**21. Sean Payton.** The now-Super Bowl-winning Saints coach must thank his lucky stars every day that his efforts to get the University of Kentucky head coaching job in 2002 went for naught.

(If you don't know the back story, go to [www.kentucky.com/287/story/1029774.html](http://www.kentucky.com/287/story/1029774.html)).

**20. Jacob Tamme.** In a classy gesture, the Colts backed up tight end and former UK star invited his Boyle County High School coach, current Kentucky assistant Chuck Smith, to be his guest at the Super Bowl.

**19. Manning bashing.** Peyton Manning might not have played his best game Sunday but, even with the late interception, he was not the reason Indianapolis lost. I've been surprised at how many people are trying to revive the "Peyton is a choker" tag.

**18. Super Bowl ads.** My test of a good Super Bowl TV commercial is, once the game is over, do I remember not only the advertisement but the product/company it was promoting?

From that basis, my top three ads Sunday: Betty White plays football (Snickers); the chicken warning (Denny's); and Punxsutawney Polamalu (truTV).

**17. Joker Phillips.** UK's late recruiting flourish demonstrated why the new head football coach has a chance to get the Wildcats program above the seven-win, regular-season ceiling at some point.

**16. Tim Patterson name calling.** The vitriolic reaction (labeling a high school kid a "sell out" and worse) on University of Louisville-oriented Internet message boards to the Central High School football star picking UK over U of L was embarrassing.

**15. The recruiting "star system."** It is fun to talk about — and almost totally meaningless in the real world.

**14. Tee Martin.** If nothing else, UK having the quarterback of an undefeated national champion on its coaching staff adds a little pizzazz.

**13. UK quarterback competition.** The three-way battle royale this spring between Mike Hartline, Morgan Newton and Ryan Mossakowski is going to be wildly interesting.

**12. Lane Kiffin works the middle schools.** Now that the new Southern California coach has accepted an oral commitment from a seventh-grade quarterback in

See STORY, C3

New Orleans safety Chris Reis (39) recovered the onside kick that opened the second half, giving the Saints monumental momentum en route to winning the Super Bowl.

LYNN SLADKY |  
ASSOCIATED PRESSSTRAIGHT  
FROM THE  
SCRIPTPAYTON'S CLEVER  
GAMBLE HELPS  
SAINTS' DREAM  
FINALLY COME TRUE

By Mark Maske

The Washington Post

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — New Orleans Saints Coach Sean Payton said Monday he told his special-teams players Sunday morning he would call an onside kick at some point during the Super Bowl. It was only a matter of when.

At halftime, with The Who on stage on the field, Payton announced in the locker room not only that the onside kick would be used to open the second half, but that he'd scripted the eight offensive plays for the Saints that would follow after they recovered the kick. The Saints made the play — called "ambush," according to Payton — work to gain possession of the ball, and their offense followed with a touchdown to turn a 10-6 halftime deficit into a 13-10 lead.

"The players did a great job making me look good with that call," Payton told reporters at the traditional morning-after news conference for the Super Bowl's winning coach and most valuable player. "It was calculated. It was well thought out by our special teams coaches. We thought the risk-reward was worth it."

Quarterback Drew Brees, the game MVP, said the onside kick changed the momentum. "It was an unbelievably gutsy

See PAYTON, C3



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Saints Coach Sean Payton clutched the Vince Lombardi trophy after New Orleans beat the Colts, 31-17, in Sunday's Super Bowl.

## Barbaro's brother has Derby potential

LENTENOR MIGHT RUN IN FLORIDA DERBY, MATZ SAYS

By Bill Finley

New York Times News Service

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. — Had Lentenor been related to any other horse, his victory on Jan. 20 at Gulfstream Park would have gone largely unnoticed. It came, after all, in a maiden race, which is an event exclusive to horses who have never won. But Lentenor, a 3-year-old, won impressively, is eligible to run in this year's Kentucky Derby and, most important, is Barbaro's full brother.

Four years after Barbaro soared into the public consciousness, Lentenor may be on his way to the race that helped make his brother famous. Michael Matz, who also trained Barbaro, has mapped out a tentative plan he hopes could lead Lentenor to

Churchill Downs.

"I do think he is good enough," Matz said earlier this week at Gulfstream Park. "I don't want to do too much with him now because I don't want to be out of horse if we do get to one of the classic races. We'll see with his next race. He'll tell us from race to race where he's going to go."

Matz is planning to run Lentenor next in an allowance race, probably one scheduled Feb. 17 at Gulfstream. Should Lentenor win in his next start, Matz said he would give him a chance in one of the traditional Kentucky Derby prep races, like the Florida Derby. That happens to be a race that Barbaro won on his way to an emphatic triumph in

See LENTENOR, C5



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lentenor, a full brother of 2006 Kentucky Derby winner Barbaro, broke his maiden in a race at Gulfstream Park on Jan. 20.