

Kentucky's Jaida Roper, left, slapped hands with Rhyne Howard following Howard's and-one play Thu

## KENTUCKY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

# Wildcats never trail, clobber Morehead State 79-54

BY JOSH MOORE

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Memorial Coliseum turned into a microwave for the cold-shooting Kentucky Wildcats on Thursday.

UK clobbered Morehead State, 79-54, for its biggest win of the 2019-20 season. It never trailed the Eagles, who missed their first four shots and fell behind by double digits by the end of the opening quarter.

Before Thursday the Cats hadn't hit the 70-point mark in a game this season; they scored 67 in each of their first three contests and 50 in their last outing.

Kentucky, which entered 4-0 despite ranking among the NCAA's poorest shot-

makers, connected on nearly 50 percent of their first-half shots to build a 48-24 lead.

A sloppy fourth quarter knocked its final percentage down to 39.7, still its best through five games. The Cats also shot a season-high 34.4 percent from three-point range.

Rhyne Howard missed her first three shots but finished 9-for-20 to lead Kentucky with 24 points, matching her season high, in only 22 minutes. She also had six rebounds, four steals and three assists.

Sabrina Haines, UK's second-leading scorer after sitting out last year due to NCAA transfer rules, had 14 points and five rebounds.

Kentucky failed to better Morehead in the paint (both teams scored 26) but generat-

ed 35 points off 24 turnovers.

The Wildcats by halftime had made more shots — 18 — than the Eagles attempted (17).

Breuna Jackson made a pair of free throws to bring the Eagles (2-3) within 12-8 with 3:48 left in the first quarter but that's as close as they'd get the rest of the night. Kentucky in less than two minutes used a 10-0 run — capped by a Blair Green putback jumper — to push its advantage to 22-8 before Alyssa Nieves stopped the drought for the visitors with a triple.

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