

Kansas Jayhawks coach Bill Self addresses speculation about potential retirement

BY SHREYAS LADDHA
sladdha@kcstar.com

LAWRENCE

Kansas Jayhawks men's basketball coach Bill Self is in the twilight of his career, but the month of March and college hoops' postseason still stir his excitement.

"If it's not, I would quit," Self said Tuesday, ahead of KU's opener in this year's Big 12 Tournament at T-Mobile Center in Kansas City. "It's the best time of the year."

"March is the best time of the year for me. If you are going to ask (my) favorite months of the year, March would rank ahead

of Christmas, ahead of December for me, just because this is what we love to do and live for. I find a ton of enjoyment. Hopefully, I will coach better and certainly (be) energized to do what I have to do and what our staff needs to do to prepare our guys. It's the most fun time."

In Self's 23rd year in Lawrence, the Jayhawks have secured the Big 12 tourney's No. 3 seed. They will play their first game of the event in the quarterfinals Thursday night.

Some fans are worried this could be Self's final postseason. Various social media rumors have suggested his retirement is imminent. Speculation has run rampant in some corners of the internet that this could be it for the Hall of Fame coach.

"No, I feel fine," Self said Tuesday afternoon. "(There are) a lot of things out there that, that all it takes is for one person to say it, and then it's your job to follow up on that one person. ... I wouldn't believe what social media

or the internet is saying.

"I feel, actually feel, pretty good, and I'm really excited about the next, hopefully several, few weeks or several weeks, whatever it be," he added.

Self's has dealt with a number of health issues in recent years. He missed a game this season due to "feeling under the weather." Turned out that Self was dehydrated and got AFib (atrial fibrillation) during a brief hospital stay.

In July 2025, he had two stents inserted after experiencing "some concerning symptoms."

Before that incident, Self missed KU's postseason run in 2023 after being hospitalized March 8 with tightness in his chest.

He had two stents inserted during that hospital stay, too. He didn't coach any Big 12 or NCAA Tournament games after that incident.

Self maintained that the topic of his future hasn't been an issue on the recruiting trail. And KU's recruiting class is ranked No. 3 (class of 2026, per 247Sports). That ranking could improve further still, as KU is considered a favorite to land Tyran Stokes, the class' No. 1-ranked player.

"No, no, the only people who have asked me about it (retirement) are you guys," Self told reporters. "But no, I haven't had to address it one time with anybody."



BRANDON PARIGO / UMKC

UMKC men's basketball coach Mark Turgeon speaks to a full crowd at Union Station in his formal introduction on Monday, March 9.

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TURGEON

They don't have past Roos success to pitch to recruits; UMKC has yet to make an NCAA Tournament but has set that as a goal in this new era. The Turgeons are selling a vision of KC as a great basketball city, themselves as successful coaches and the opportunity to be a part of something special in the program.

"We've been speaking that vision for the last five weeks to recruits, to parents, through Zoom, to whoever we could talk to," Turgeon told the crowd during the news conference.

The Turgeons said they have identified 250-plus recruits already, seeing more than 50 of them in person.

Local high school recruits have been sharing offer letters from the Roos on social media this past month.

"I told (athletic director Brandon Martin) I wasn't

coming here to lose. A lot of that was on my dime, by the way," Turgeon said with a laugh.

Turgeon takes over for Marvin Menzies, who led the Roos to a 4-27 overall record this season, finishing last in the Summit League with a 1-15 record.

Menzies had high moments — the Roos were picked to win the conference two seasons ago after a second-place finish the season before. But he ended his tenure without a winning season in four years, going 44-84 with rosters filled with out-of-state and out-of-country players.

The local-first approach has been wanted by Martin for years since his tenure began seven years ago as AD. The Turgeons have been flooded with so many recruits that they have had trouble keeping up, which they insist is a good thing.

They are building trust

back between the program and local basketball community, which has been needed for some time, Martin said.

"I've talked about making sure to be building a fence around Kansas City and keep our kids home, but that takes work, that takes effort, that takes being intentional about connecting with high school coaches, with AAU coaches, and you have to work at it," Martin said. "It's important just for us as we elevate the program. It's important for credibility we've lost over the past few years, a lot of credibility with AAU coaches. Just in terms because we haven't recruited well in the city."

The Roos will naturally be recruiting across the country as well. But they'll look to keep players in the area.

"That's a priority for me," Martin said. "Coach and I talked about this, and he's already done (it) in short order."

A FAMILY AFFAIR AT UMKC

Turgeon told several people he was done with

coaching after leaving the University of Maryland in 2021.

He led the Terps to five NCAA Tournament appearances — including a Sweet Sixteen — in 11 years. The Topeka native is most known for building up Wichita State to a magical Sweet Sixteen run in 2006; he also guided Texas A&M to four consecutive NCAA appearances from 2007-11.

He spent the next four years in retirement, staying busy as a consultant, broadcaster and running a nonprofit for Alzheimer's disease, The Leo Fund.

He stayed out of coaching to get more connected with his family. He only dabbled back into the coaching realm to coach his son Leo's Catholic Youth Organization league team, still perturbed by losing a semifinal game at the buzzer a few years ago.

Turgeon was great at retirement, he said, but his family and friends were used to rooting for his teams. Now he's back in the saddle and feeling energized, despite turning 61 in February, for what he calls his last job.

"I'm glad I can give them that and that they can have that back in their life," Turgeon said. "I stepped away for family. I'm back in because of family, and it's a pretty good way to live life."

The family way of basketball spread to Turgeon's son Will, who grew up in Wichita and on the courts his father coached on.

The younger Turgeon immediately got into coaching after spending time at the University of Colorado as a graduate assistant and Eastern Washington as an assistant. He left coaching to help a family friend with a drywall

business in Dallas, which he immediately regretted.

He thought an opportunity to be on a staff with his father passed him by. But Turgeon called him on a snowy day in Texas to tell him that he was back working again. He didn't even wait to see where he was working before he offered his services.

"I said right away, I'm coming with you," Will Turgeon told The Star. "That's all I've ever wanted to do is help him build a program."

Will remembers when the Roos lost to Wichita State in Municipal Auditorium in 2005, the sea-

son of Turgeon's Sweet Sixteen run. He fell in love with the mascot, holding it near to his heart, he said.

On Monday, he put a UMKC pin right in front of his heart. He said he is planning to make others see what he admires about the program.

"These next couple of days are going to be huge locally," he said.

College basketball's regular signing day period begins April 15.

"Continuing to build that brand in this area," Will Turgeon continued, "and make sure people are proud to be wearing UMKC."

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The proposal is due and will be opened on **April 17, 2026, at 3:00 pm local time**. Call 866-839-8477 for problems with website or questions.
IPL0317078
Mar 5, 12 2026

Notice of Public Sale

The undersigned, wishing to avail themselves of the provisions under the Warehouse and Self-Service Storage Facilities Act hereby gives notice of the sale under said act; Thursday the 19th of March at 10:00 AM on that day will release for sale and conduct a public sale to the highest bidder, with bidding to take place on StorageTreasures.com, the contents of spaces:

- iStorage, 1920 Spruce St, Leavenworth, KS 66048: Sara Proctor, Oza Maxey, Mardochee Estinvil, Jacob Sanders
- iStorage, 325 N. 78th St, Kansas City, KS 66112: Robin Calovich, Deverelle Smith, Monica Stewart, Nevaeh Peters-Keith, Kimberly Bush, Melissa Hartman, Vanessa Juergens
- iStorage, 7804 Meadow View Drive, Shawnee, KS, 66227: Maniya Brown
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NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Liberty Public School District No. 53 will receive proposals for a

BANKING/DEPOSITORY SERVICES

The District reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informality. Copies of bid documents may be secured by emailing Jason Breit at jason.breit@lps53.org.

Sealed proposals must be submitted by 2:00 PM CST, Thursday, March 26, 2026.

Proposals should be mailed to:
Liberty Public Schools
1142 Southview Dr
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Announcements

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- **OPEN FOR BIDDING:** until Sunday, March 15 when lots begin to close at 6pm
- **PREVIEW:** Friday, March 13 from 2pm to 6pm downtown underground complex at 1501 West 31st Street KCMO 64111. Enter from 31st Street, at the bottom of the entrance ramp take the second left into the blue marked area to unit 543 - Blue Area.
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FROM PAGE 1B

GREGORIAN

name game as they declined by the season. The diminishing results amplified his idiosyncrasies. All of which led K-State in February to fire him.

For cause, the school contends, with an \$18.7 million buyout in the balance — a drama of its own waiting to play out.

Left in the wake of this is a cautionary tale, with a certain darned if you do, darned if you don't element, the consequences of which were on vivid display Tuesday night at T-Mobile Center:

K-State's lost season mercifully came to an end with a 105-91 loss to BYU in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament. Fueled by AJ Dybantsa's 40 points, BYU's score was the most in Big 12 tourney history.

The abrupt finality of the loss was particularly acute for the Wildcats, who finished 12-20 overall with a 3-15 Big 12 regular-season record.

Given the circumstances, including the state of college sports in general, it's impossible to know who among them will

return — a reality that reverberated around a locker room where players and coaches were hugging as if saying farewell.

Because many probably were.

As he considered the moment, sophomore guard David Castillo thought about not just the seniors who are done but all of the flux and Tang's staff who coached out the season.

"Probably won't even see (the coaches) again," he said, "with them having to be moved out by Friday."

At the podium, interim coach Matthew Driscoll described the last few weeks standing in the stead of his friend as "absolutely miserable."

"Every day," he said. "Ulcers, not sleeping, not feeling good."

Not feeling good echoes the broader plight of K-State as it seeks the man to replace Tang. The Star's Kellis Robinett has reported extensively on the search, which athletic director Gene Taylor confirmed Tuesday could conclude this week.

The frontrunner is con-

sidered Utah State coach Jerrod Calhoun, who took the Aggies to the NCAA Tournament last season, coaxed them to the Mountain West regular-season title and is a former assistant to Bob Huggins — who endeared himself to K-State fans in just one season in Manhattan.

But with other jobs recently opening and more to come, K-State has to have several candidates in mind even as it tries to operate with urgency and largely favors current head coaches: Among others in whom K-State is believed to have interest are Belmont's Casey Alexander and Saint Louis University's Josh Schertz.

One other priority K-State likely will embrace: a coach with a consistent plan and not prone to capriciousness. Tang tended to be that in everything from his season-by-season approach to this season's mood swings that hastened his demise — including his blame games and saying his team didn't "deserve to wear this uniform" after a 91-62 loss to Cincinnati.

Meanwhile, however K-State moves, one of the dilemmas of this era of college sports will hover over it — an issue the school will be particularly

cognizant of and seek to navigate better:

How can it lure the best person for the job and pay what it must to demonstrate its commitment without putting itself in a financial bind — especially in terms of the buyout — like it did with Tang? It's all a trap in a lot of ways: When everyone thought he was *The Answer*, K-State would have been hard-pressed not to meet the moment to keep him.

So there's no easy answer, especially since much of it is simply the price of business these days: K-State will want to reel in whoever it deems best for the job and not get snagged over the details in an intensely competitive market.

But it also will look to be more cautious in how it builds contracts with an aim of being fair and protecting both sides. However it works out with the Tang buyout, K-State literally can't afford to make itself that vulnerable again.

Because even when something seems so perfect, like Tang's debut season, it can turn out just to be a moment in time — unforgettable but singular.