



LEXINGTON WWW.KENTUCKY.COM HERALD-LEADER

Dennis Felton and Georgia look to beat Kentucky for a third time

DAWGS AIM AT RARE TRIFECTA

CATS BEGIN SEC TOURNAMENT PLAY 1 P.M. TODAY
SPORTS — D1

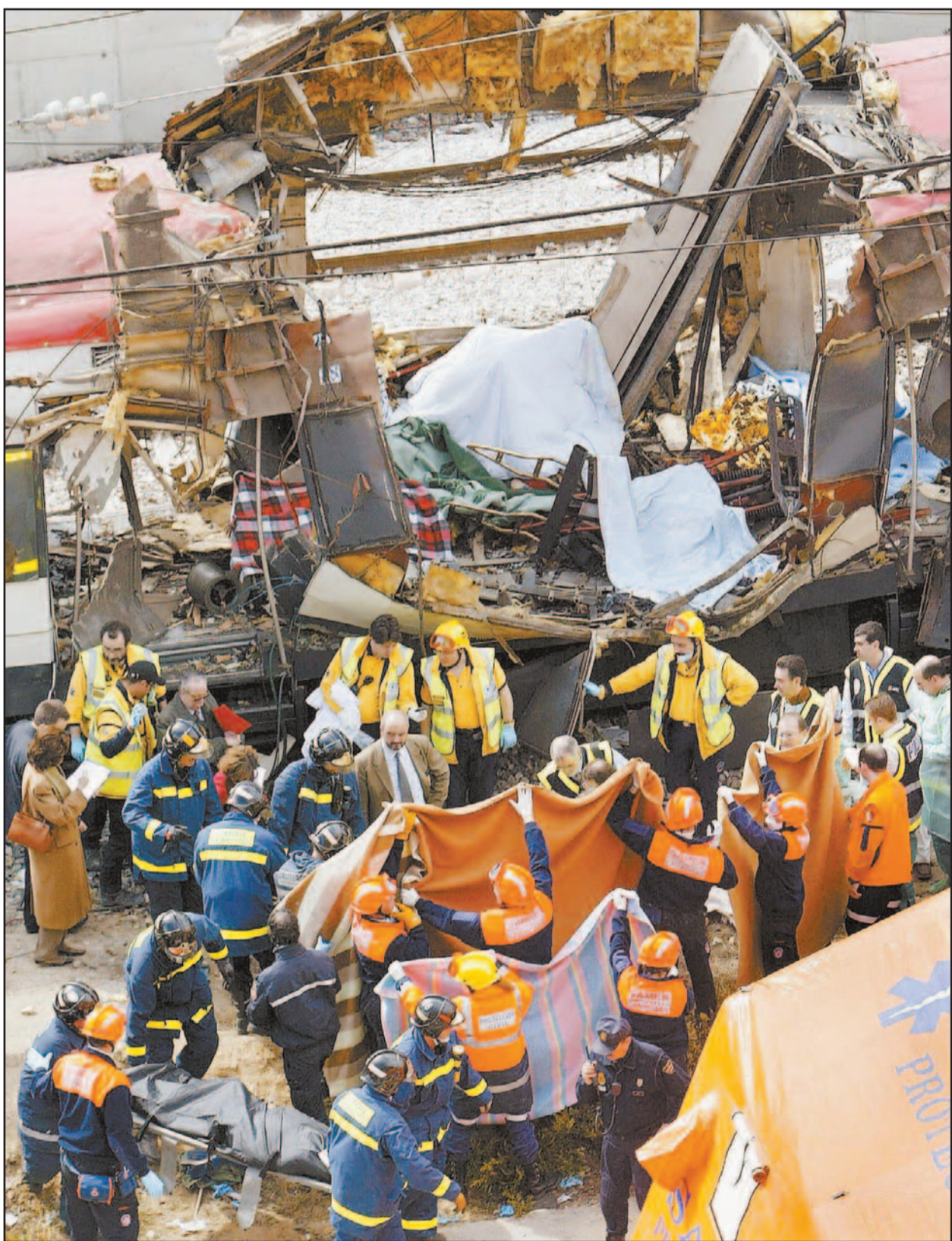


GIRLS 11TH REGION
KNIGHTS
BURN
DEVILS
SPORTS — D1

MARCH 12, 2004 | FRIDAY | METRO FINAL EDITION |

50¢

TERRORISM BLOODIES MADRID 192 killed, 1,400 hurt as bombs rip trains



CHRISTOPHE SIMON | GETTY IMAGES

Emergency workers removed bodies after an explosion near the Atocha train station in Madrid. Ten bombs went off in four trains within 10 minutes of each other during the morning rush hour. More than 220 pounds of explosives were used.

AL-QAIDA, BASQUE SEPARATISTS ARE SUSPECTS

By Elaine Sciolino
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

MADRID, Spain — Ten bombs ripped through four commuter trains in Madrid yesterday, killing at least 192 people and wounding more than 1,400 in the deadliest terrorist attack on a European target since World War II.

Spanish authorities initially blamed the Basque separatist group ETA. But after finding a van with detonators and tape of Koranic verses

Group is said to lack credibility
Ties to al-Qaida are tenuous, U.S. says
Page A8

near Madrid, they held open the possibility of militant Islamic terrorism.

A group claiming links to al-Qaida took responsibility in a letter delivered to an Arab newspaper. An American counterterrorism official said the claim should be viewed skeptically.

Spain, a U.S. ally in the war on Iraq that has 1,300 troops stationed there, was explicitly threatened as a target in an audiotape reportedly made by Osama bin Laden last October.

As the country struggled to absorb the devastation three days before general elections, Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar said, "March 11 now has its place in the history of infamy."

See BOMBS, A8

Horror explodes during city's rush hour

7:39 A.M. Three backpacks loaded with explosives detonate on a commuter train in the Atocha station.	7:44 A.M. Four backpack bombs explode on commuter train entering Atocha station.	7:49 A.M. Backpack bomb explodes as commuter train enters Santa Eugenia train station.	7:54 A.M. Two bombs explode on double-decker commuter train in El Pozo station.	10 A.M. Police explode three booby-trapped backpack bombs. They think the attackers planned to set them off after the first wave.
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THE GOVERNOR'S PLAN

Cigarette, liquor taxes would rise

7 Democrats join Fletcher in announcing changes

125,000 WOULDN'T PAY INCOME TAXES

By Jack Brammer and Ryan Alessi
HERALD-LEADER FRANKFORT BUREAU

FRANKFORT — After weeks of uncertainty, Gov. Ernie Fletcher finally unveiled an array of proposed tax-law changes yesterday. Those changes included higher levies on cigarettes and alcohol while freeing 125,000 low-income Kentuckians from any income taxes and cutting the rate for most others.

The state's first Republican governor since 1971 rolled out what he labeled a "bipartisan" tax overhaul plan at a packed Capitol news conference that included dozens of legislators from both chambers and numerous administration officials.

Fletcher strolled in followed by a Democratic lawmaker, Rep. Bob Dameron of Nicholasville, who will sponsor his bill — the first sign of a break in weeks of party-line posturing.

See TAX, A8



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION FRANK ANDERSON | STAFF

New taxes, new cuts

Cigarette tax: Smokers would pay 29 cents a pack, up from 3 cents.

Alcohol tax: Slight increase; beer drinkers, for example, would pay less than an extra nickel a 12-pack.

Telecom tax: Cable and satellite TV, wireless and long-distance phone service would get a 7.62 percent excise tax.

Cuts: Sales tax holiday for back-to-school items, income tax cuts for corporations and individuals, no more income taxes for 125,000 families, no more property taxes on stocks. And more.

For full details, see page A8

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

State Senate OKs putting gay marriage ban to a vote

By John Cheves
HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

FRANKFORT — As expected, the Senate overwhelmingly voted yesterday to put a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Senate Bill 245 goes to the House, where leaders say they are not inclined to send the controversial proposal to the House floor for a vote.

"We already have a law that bans same-sex marriages, and we have recently passed a resolution urging Con-

gress to amend the U.S. Constitution against same-sex marriages. In my opinion, the House has pretty well expressed its view," House Majority Leader Rocky Adkins, D-Sandy Hook, said this week.

Nationally and in Kentucky, Democrats complain that Republicans are using gay-marriage bans as a political "wedge" issue that divides voters and forces Democrats to alienate either supporters or opponents of gay rights.

See VOTE, A9

Sex scandals prompt NCAA to review recruiting rules

By Robert Gehrke
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The NCAA is considering strict new recruiting standards, including a ban on all university-sponsored visits, after allegations that the University of Colorado and other schools used sex and parties to lure star high school athletes.

S. David Brest, chairman of an NCAA task force reviewing recruiting rules, said it's clear current standards

are inadequate. "The headlines of the last three weeks suggest that the well-being of students and enrolled and prospective student-athletes is at risk on many campuses," Brest said in testimony yesterday to a congressional subcommittee. "Let me be perfectly clear: The use of alcohol, drugs and sex as recruiting inducements cannot and will not be tolerated."

See NCAA, A9

>KNIGHT RIDDER<

INFORMATION FOR LIFE



PARTLY CLOUDY
Chance of precipitation less than 20%. **Weather, D12**

40 | 25
HIGH | LOW

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