Bat Jackets advance to Region

Defeat Bourbon; fall to Harrison

Despite a 10-8 loss to Harrison County in the finals of the 39th District tournament, the Bat Jackets of Nicholas County moved into 16th Region action late Tuesday afternoon against Mercer County.

Results of the tournament, also being played at Harrison County, were not available at presstime.

Winners of that game and the Oldham County-Western Hills contest were to have met Wednesday at 7 p.m. at Harrison County athletic field. Finals are scheduled Thursday at 4:30 p.m. (time approximate).

The 19-7 Jackets took the third best record into the tournament, behind Harrison, 28-7 and Oldham, 32-7. Other contenders and their records include Harrodsburg (9-10), Scott County (10-14), Shelby County (17-8) Mercer (13-9) and Western Hills (15-8).

AN OPENING round win last Tuesday over Bourbon County assured coach Bill Anderson's team a berth in the regionals since both district finalists automatically advance in post season play.

With pitcher Carl Whitson in command after a shaky start, the Jackets overcame a 2-6 first inning deficit enroute to a 6-2 win over the Colonels.

A walk to Anthony Farris and Todd Earlywine's (4th) home run of the year were the only runs Whitson allowed. "And going into the top of the fifth it appeared they might be enough for victory.

Tim Bradford had not allowed a hit through the first four innings until Whitson lead out an infield hit, stole second and came home on Chris Anderson's double.

The Jackets took the lead in the sixth on a walk to Todd Hedges and a hit batsman (Wendell McNabb). Whitson's sacrifice bunt moved the runners to second and third. Both scored on a passes-clearing double by Anderson, who was forced in when Bradford walked Kevin Wells, Greg McNabb and Bobby Woosley.

The Jackets added two insurance runs in the seventh on a run producing double by Whitson, who later scored on a wild pitch.

HARRISON COUNTY, victimized by NCHS twice during the regular season, 8-7 and 17-1, jumped in front with six runs in the top of the second off loser Anderson (3-1) and never trailed. Home runs by Larry Kendell and Mike Jones, four singles and a fly, ball lost in the sun keyed the big inning.

The Jackets came back in the bottom of the second with four runs when Greg McNabb walked, Darren Robinson singled, and Tip Prymas was hit by a pitch. A Wendell McNabb single and a throwing error scored three runners. McNabb took third on the play and scored on a sacrifice fly by Doug McCord.

Wells cracked his sixth home run in the third to cut the lead to 6-6. The Jackets threatened with two on and two out in the fourth but failed to score.

Winning pitcher Keith Tolson (3-1) was a perfect 4-for-4 at bat, including a home run in the sixth. — EAW

LINE SCORES:

Nicholas Co.	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	6	6
Bourbon Co.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5

Whitson (6-) and Wells; Bradford (4-) and Gibson.

Harrison Co.	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	1	7
Nicholas Co.	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	8

Tolson (3-1) and Gipper; Anderson, McNabb (5), Prayne (6) and Wells.

Ace pitches win

Jocket ace Carl Whitson picked up his sixth win of the year in pitching his NCHS teammates to a 6-2 win over Bourbon County. — Photo by Staff

Coach Bill Anderson claps approval of opening round win over Bourbon County. — Photo submitted

Three-wheeler, Odyssey races at Fairgrounds

ATV and Odyssey racing returns to the Ewing-Fleming County Fairgrounds Sunday afternoon, May 19. Other scheduled races for the year are June 23, July 21, Sept. 8 and Oct. 13.

Racing begins at 1 p.m. with sign-in between 10:30-11 a.m. Practice sessions start at 11 on the new flat track racing course. Gates open at 10 a.m.

Three-wheeler classes include stock, modified, youth and powder puff with the four-wheeler or odyssey classes. All races run five laps.

The Miami Valley ATV Racing Association rules in effect with the races, sponsored by the Ewing-Fleming County Fair. Entry fee is $10 per cycle with a 100% payback to winners.

Admission is $3 for adults with children under 12 free. Concessions will be available. The fairgrounds are located on State Route 165, one mile off U.S. 68 at Fairview. For information call 849-2346 or 267-5981.

Softball tourney here May 24-27

A slow-pitch softball tournament for men and women's teams will be held at the East End Park over Memorial Day weekend, May 24-27.

Bill McNabb is sponsoring the four day event, entrance fee for which is $65 per team. Teams must furnish their own blue dot balls.

Pairing will be announced at a drawing May 22, 7 p.m. at the park. For information call 289-6068 or McNabb at Blue Grass Knitting, 289-2225.

Letters and things

Bob Watkins

Fans from around the state write from time to time. This week, a sampling.

Tammy Jeggers writes from Sweeden, Ky.: In Edmonson County ...to say she believes with Eddie Sutton coaching Kenny Walker, Kentucky will be a top contender for another NCAA championship next season. "Since UK signed only one player (Irving Thomas) will those scholarships go to next year?"

Answer: Yes. The NCAA allows a college team 15 players on basketball scholarship for any one season. Brel Bearup and Troy McKinley graduated from last season's 13-man roster and those graduating next season will be Roger Harden, LeRoy Byrd and Kenny Walker. Having signed only Thomas, UK will have six openings, barring transfers. But, according to UK sports information director Brad Davis, "I don't know if coach Sutton will use them all or not."

Commenst: According to prep talent scout Dave Bones, two of those high on UK's shopping rack among America's top 10 seniors-to-be Terry Mills, a 6-10 center from Romulus, Mich. ranks No. 2 behind 6-8 J.R. Reed of Virginia Beach.; and 6-4 Pete Chilcutt of Owensboro at No. 8!

Question: Is coach Sutton going to raffle off tickets (to UK games)?

Answer: Yes, during his weekly radio show

Commenst: That ought to hype its audience ratings.

Ralph Paxton writes from Central City in Muhlenberg County... to say he believes Kentucky's new head coach will be an improvement in three respects: "No. 1. Bench coaching. Joe B.'s actions un fortunately speak for themselves. No. 2 Motivating. Kentucky needs to be ready to play even when it it heavily favored. Maybe Sutton will even break the Knoxville jinx. No. 3 Personality. Sutton seems to be a pretty colorful man. Joe B. tried, but it just didn't come natural for him. Maybe a perm would have loosed Joe B. up some.

Paxton added, "As for a vote of confidence, Sutton would surely like to know that I have yet to run into anybody who is unhappy about (UK) hiring him."

And Paxton had a question about the UK-D. John's game in the NCAA West Regional: "Did Chris Mullin ever comment as to why he got upset and got (himself) a technical against the Cats?"

Answer: Not to my knowledge. However, it looked to me as if, at that point in the game, Mullin was frustrated (and angry) with Winston Bennett's style of defense.

Tom Marshall writes from Mt. Sterling in Montgomery County... to say, "I was overjoyed when UK kept Leonard Hamilton, a first class act," and to add, "I bet I Sutton will help James Blakmon too. Sutton is known as the troublemaker's coach. Blackmon just has a few troubles to work out. I wonder what changes will be made in playing time. I hope to see (Cedric) Jenkins play more. He has a lot of potential."

Marshall says he is glad Chip Rupp chose not to sign with the University of Kentucky because "it would have caused him a lot of trouble."

Comment: Rupp signed with Vandy. A good choice, Chip getting an opportunity to work under C.M. Newton who played for Uncle Adolph.

Marshall continues: "Ed Davender has as much potential as (Notre Dame's) David Rivers. Good height, good jumping ability and an abundance of quickness. And he's a good ball handler and good shooter.

"Can you tell me how I can get in touch with coach Sutton?"

Answer: Write to coach Sutton at his office in Memorial Coliseum, University of Kentucky, in Lexington.

A fan from Williamsburg, in Whitley County, a lady who asked that her name not be used wrote in take issue with my view that Tulane University did the right thing in cancelling its basketball program. To make her point the lady quoted regards J. Joe Davis who reviewed that Tulane made a mistake dropping basketball. "That's the saying the dog's got fleas so we'll kill the dog to get rid of the fleas."

Comment: From the seriousness and number of NCAA rules violations, Tulane's basketball program would have been fared very severe probation by the NCAA in any case. However, I believe TU president Eamon Kelly showed some vision and sent a message. Sports at the college level, is cheaper and money changers are eclipsing the intent of the college experience. We've had enough! We're not going to have it anymore!

Verna Jean Mikat of Ellisabethtown in Hardin County wrote to complain that I write too much about the University of Kentucky and suggests I stop railing about how perfect Joe B. Hall is and how wonderful Rupp Arena is.

● Some questions I've not been asked, but will answer anyway.

1. Who is the college scene to watch next season?

Answer: Two of them. North Carolina State and Louisville.

2. Who are the (freshmen label) players to watch next season?

Answer: Walker Lamfield, 6-7 NC State is a dandy. Other: 6-6 Joey Marble of Iowa, Kevin Walls of Louisville, Jeff Lebo of North Carolina and yes, Irving Thomas at Kentucky.

Thank you (all) for writing. I encourage anyone, everyone to drop me a line with points of view and/or questions.

Sutton remarks

In a press release from UK's basketball office received last week, coach Eddie Sutton addressed a number of topics UK fans will find interesting. Following are excerpts from a few of them.

On playing Louisville "That game should be played. I have great respect for Denny (Crum). It's a healthy situation with mutual respect. You get beat by Louisville, you get beat. I have no problems playing Louisville. If we play in the next 20 years it would be pretty even.

Pressure "Anyone who sits on the bench in Rupp Arena doesn't have an easy task. People keep telling me Kentucky is different, but I find that hard to believe. I've had pressure during my career, and I intend to coach the same way I've done the last 27 years."

Attendance "Ninety-two percent of my players at Arkansas graduated. Not all will play in the NBA. It's very important to me that they leave with degrees and a strong sense of values."

Illegal recruiting "You could cut out 90 percent of the nickel-and-dime cheating by allowing (players) to have $50 or $100 a month. Maybe give them a couple of plane tickets to go home at Christmas, go home in the spring."

Home court advantage (Sutton told a story of a visit to Madrid, Spain, where he and a rival coach saw a bullfight.) "You've got to know the bull has no chance in those things. The guy I was with said, 'That bull has a better chance than I do in Barnhill Arena (Arkansas home court).' You can do a psych job on coaches I hope they feel that way here."

His new job's high visibility "I'll probably feel like a state park. Everybody will want a piece of me. When I lose, I'll fee I let everyone down."

On officiating (During an NCAA tourney first round game in Salt Lake City this spring Sutton became so nulled with the officials he left the bench and went back to sit with Brigham Young coach Ladell Anderson who was evaluating the referees.) "I said, 'Ladell, this isn't right. We're getting some phantom calls.' He was kinda like a father. He patted me on the hand and said, 'I know. It's horrible.' I just went back to be with him a few minutes and then went back to the bench. You never know. I just may end up on the front row at Rupp Arena one night. But I won't throw any chairs."

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