

## GRIDIRON PREVIEW

The Carlisle Mercury - Thursday August 20, 1987

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# Barr optimistic about 1987 season

By Marsha Mattox  
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff  
It's football time again at Nicholas County High School, and all across the Commonwealth.

Nicholas County High School football Bluejackets will travel to Fleming County, Friday, August 21, for their season opener against the Panthers.

Robbie Barr, head football coach for Nicholas County, is certain about the 1987 squad's preparation compared to his team of a year ago.

"This year's team is more prepared at this point than last year's team," Barr said.

One of the key factors in this year's preparedness is the players' dedication to the system of coaching in the off season.

"A greater number of players has come out throughout the summer to work out and prepare for the season by lifting weights, running and so forth," he added.

While Barr has been pleased with the off season efforts of his team he is quick to point out this year's squad is a young one.

"We will put a very young team on the field this year," Barr said.

"At some point, there could be as many as three or four freshmen or eighth graders playing at one time," he added.

Beginning his third year as head football coach at Nicholas County, Barr said he has few players back this year experienced with his system of coaching.

"I actually have three

backs and three linemen with experience," he said.

"The rest will be inexperienced players at their positions.

The offense and defense are about on the same level of experience.

"We will have eight or nine players going both ways," Barr said.

Barr said the 1987 schedule is nearly the same as the one in 1986, with the exception of Estill County replacing Woodford County, and M. M. I. replacing Boyle County.

With a change in the play-off system, Nicholas County will face Madison County and Paris as district opponents, rather than Fairview and Racedand.

Other district opponents include Berea and Bath County.

"The toughest team by far will be Paris," Barr said. Although the Greyhounds will be fielding a team behind a new coach, Paris will nonetheless be a strong opponent.

Also facing Lewis County, Mason County, Frankfort and Bath County, Barr said all the opponents on the 1987 schedule are "tough."

Barr refuses to spotlight any single player on his squad.

"I don't like to point out specific players, because of maybe leaving someone out who should be recognized," he said.

"All players this year are working hard and, with some possibility, we could have some players playing college football in the future," Barr added.

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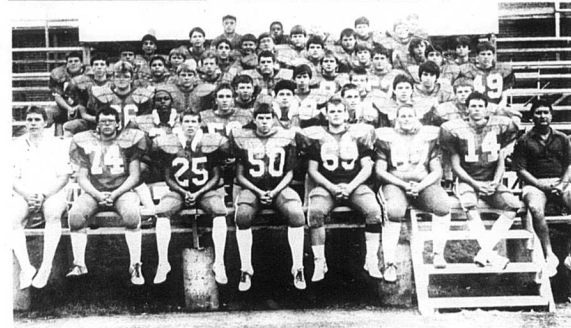


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