

**Letcher looks to 87 year for jr high**

**By Marsha Mattox**  
The Nicholas County Junior High Football squad has an important task ahead of it. That task is backing up the Nicholas County High School varsity squad, which has only six players participating this year who have previous playing experience.

"This year's junior high team returns several individuals who participated in football for the first time last year," said Greg Letcher, Nicholas County Junior High football coach, and assistant varsity football coach.

"Hopefully, the experience gained will help lend itself to a successful season," Letcher added.

Letcher said there were approximately 20 seventh and eighth graders participating on the 1987 squad. Eighth graders returning

for their second year include Travis Sims, Brad Allison, Raymond Brown, Daniel Brown, Shawn Bussell, Greg Gilvin, Ben Buckler, Chris Jones, John Joseph and Jarrod Wills.

"Wills is currently injured, and may not participate this year," Letcher said.

Seventh graders returning for their second year include Kevin Watkins, Justin Abusee, James Anderson, Chris Smoot, Mike Caswell and Charbel Joseph.

First year seventh graders include Shane Van Duran, Steve Mattox, Mark Hamon and Jim Compton.

First year eighth graders include Larry Ring, Patrick Ritchie and Pat Phillips.



**Barr**

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Like most teams, Barr's Bluejackets have strengths and weaknesses, and the 1987 edition is no exception.

"Our team's greatest strength will be a desire to hit, having fun playing the game of football, and a strong desire to win."

"Our greatest weakness is our youth and inexperience, and trying to develop a winning attitude."

"Our weaknesses can be overcome with the desire and intensity to play the game of football the way Vince Lombardi said it should be played," Barr said.

Barr gave considerable credit to his assistant, Greg Letcher, and many others when speaking of the success of this year's football squad.

"Our athletic department could not survive without our

board of education and superintendent (Don) Elder supporting us, or the support of principals Greg Reid and Gerald Hammons.

"We couldn't survive without the boosters club, sponsored by Phyllis Ramey, and funds donated from civic groups, and Scott and O. C. Ramey, who film our games."

And the list goes on. "Parental support is great, as the players' parents back the team, and encourage their sons to be at practice and be positive about their work."

"Coach Letcher works very hard to make our program a success. "Our football team has the largest number of players out there than ever before in the past 10 years."

"Coach Letcher and I are working hard on our junior

high team, and developing the varsity with our youth," Barr added.

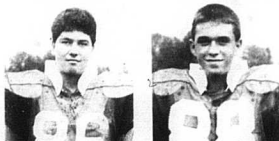
"Summing it all up, Barr said he feels developing a winning attitude plays an important part in the success or failure of the 1987 football Bluejackets.

"Our team will be like our team of the past two years, playing hard, representing Nicholas County the best we can, being Christian athletes, developing moral character and conduct, and a sense of good citizenship," he concluded.



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