

SPORTS

Panthers prevail in capital city tilt; Frankfort defeats Nicholas, 76-67

Jackets stand at 3-3

By Chip Miller
FRANKFORT — The Nicholas County varsity boys carried their 12 record into the state capital Tuesday night against the Panthers of Frankfort High, looking for that 42 mark.

After the 76-67 defeat of the Jackets, Frankfort walked off the floor with the 42 record, Nicholas with 33.

Nicholas was outscored 23-17 in the first quarter and lagged an eight-point deficit behind Frankfort in the fourth quarter when the Jackets scored the Panthers

lead to two with 1:22 on the clock. But there wasn't enough time on the clock or lack of the Nicholas end of the floor, for the Jackets fouled an time giving the Panthers an opportunity to wrap the game up.

Frankfort made nine of the 10 charity shots and the game ended, 76-67.

First quarter action saw Frankfort pull out an early lead from a dandy left corner shot from Panthers Keith Reed and Gordon Hipple.

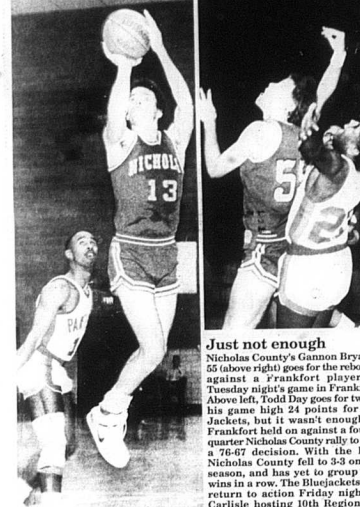
The Jackets played a tight inside zone defense, challenging the Panthers to answer with the outside shots.

The Panthers said all they wanted with 14 points in less than four minutes of first quarter action.

NCHS Coach Leo Cruse called a timeout, the clockreading 4:35, regrouped, and the Bluejackets came back hot, hitting four straight baskets, closing the score-board gap to one, 13-12.

One back into the action the Panthers slowly pulled ahead, gaining a five-point margin.

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Nicholas County's Gannon Bryant (55 above right) goes for the rebound against a Frankfort player in Tuesday night's game in Frankfort. Above left, Todd Day goes for two of his game high 24 points for the Jackets, but it wasn't enough as Frankfort held on against a fourth quarter Nicholas County rally to post a 76-67 decision. With the loss, Nicholas County fell to 3-3 on the season, and has yet to group two wins in a row. The Bluejackets will return to action Friday night in Carlisle hosting 10th Region foe Mason County. - Chip Miller Photos.

With 58-33 loss to Madison, Lady Jackets fall to 0-5 on the year

By Hank Hand
FRANKFORT — A strong rebound game by Richmond Madison and a lousing defense by the Purple lifted the visitors to a 58-33 win Tuesday night.

The home-standing Nicholas County Lady Jackets fell behind in the early going and trailed 4-2, with 5:00 to play in the first quarter.

Madison built a lead of 7-2 with 4:11 to play in the quarter, before Nicholas County began a rally.

Tony Moore carried a six foot ball from the right, and followed with a layup, after a fine steal on defense, to pull the Jackets within one, with 3:36 to play.

NCHS Coach Barbara Kerney equaled a timeout, with 3:38 to play in the quarter, before Moore's three-point goal at the buzzer made it 22-17 Madison at the intermission.

Richmond Madison put the game out of reach in the third quarter, out scoring the hosts, 21-7. Moore hit another three-point shot with two seconds to play in the

quarter to extend the lead to 44-24 entering the final frame.

Dillingham scored the first six points for Madison in the last stanza, countered only by Chris Auster's follow shot, and with 0:30 to play in the game, Madison had built a 40-10 advantage.

The visitors continued to pour it on, as Moore's two free throws with 4:31 to play in the game accounted for the other Nicholas points in the first 5:00 of the last frame and at the 1:44 mark, Moore's shot made it 50-10, Madison.

The teams engaged their benches in the final two minutes, and Madison managed only two points, although the Purple had numerous opportunities at the free throw line in the final two minutes.

Moore led all scorers with 24, while Russell finished with four. Auster had three and Hamilton finished with one field goal.

With the loss, Nicholas County fell to 0-5, while Madison won its first game in three years.

Madison was physically

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heading into the second quarter. Second quarter action saw the Panthers determined to match the Panthers on the boards and in the case, yet Frankfort kept the lead, after jump on the Jackets by outscoring them by three.

All the while, Panther guard The Allen hit an impressive five baskets in the first three and a half minutes of second quarter play.

The Jackets left the floor at the half halbed, 43-33, yet not entirely out of the ballgame.

Once the third quarter began the Jackets proved they by hitting two baskets, both leading the Game Bryant touch to them, and one by Tyrone shortly thereafter.

The Jackets hit outscored the Panthers on the boards and in the case, yet Frankfort kept the lead, after jump on the Jackets by outscoring them by three.

Back on the floor, Panther Allen hit another from under the boards, 15 seconds later Bryant was fouled and made both shots.

The score was back to within three. Panther Allen was fouled and made one of his two Frankfort lay ups.

With 1:22 on the clock Todd Day was fouled and made both charity tosses bringing the score within two, 47-46.

With under a minute to play, Frankfort's Reed was fouled, he made both.

Again, there was a four-point margin in score.

Day hit the last Jackete basket for the night, bringing the Panthers four-point cushion to two, 60-57.

Hipple of the Panthers was fouled, and Cruse called a timeout after Hipple made the free shot.

Coming back onto the floor, it was clear the Jackets intended to score for three pointers.

But that didn't happen, instead, Panthers began to get fouled, giving their last nine points from the free throw line.

"I'm real proud of the way they (Nicholas) played tonight," Cruse said after the game.

"I think they played real well. At first we packed it in the inside with a zone defense and challenged them to make the outside shots and they made them."

"We tried man-to-man and a somewhat they would get something in the inside and score," he said.

Cruse said the fast break was what kept the Jackets offense in the game.

Cruse's Jackets meet the invasion of Allen Fieldhouse, Mason County Royals December 18 on the Bluejackets home court.

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Lady Jackets fall

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stronger than we were," Kerney said after the game.

"They were quicker and taller, and about the only thing we did as well as handling the ball, but they went to the boards and well the entire game... it was just a difficult game."

"We were playing hard," Kerney said. "We had a couple playing with bad knees, and one with a sprained ankle. We just had to play hurt, and it showed in the game against a quicker team," she continued.

"Dillingham (Virginia) is just a tremendous athlete. She is an outstanding track performer, too. She

wasn't second in the state track meet last year, and she's just a member of the team."

"The Lady Jackets will face Madison County, Thursday night and travel to Henderson County, Saturday.

After the Predation County game, the Lady Jackets will be idle until January 4 when they travel to Morehead for a game with the Lady Bulldogs.

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