SPORTS

Sandy Warner and Tonya Moore struggle for the defensive rebound with the Lady Panthers of Capitol City. Moore fouled out in the third quarter but Warner was left in to take the point. - Heather Mathes Photo

Bluejackets lose to Deming Devils, 77-68

By Chip Miller
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Friday night the Nicholas County Bluejackets carried their basketball battle into neighboring Robertson County against the Deming Black Devils, losing the matchup, 77-68.

The nine-point loss resulted from Deming rebounds and allowed second shots.

The Black Devils broke the first quarter ice with a Gayle Conley layup, followed by two Deming charity shots.

It was then the Bluejackets exploded on the boards with eight points in under a minute and a half.

Todd Day racking up six points of the Jackets' score.

Deming called timeout with 4:32 on the clock in order to halt the Jacket scoring spurt.

Once back onto the floor, it was a slow trading of points. Deming, with under two and a half minutes left in the first quarter, gained ground on the scoreboard with six unanswered points from Nicholas.

Yet, the Bluejackets led into the second quarter, 14-13.

Here, things turned around for the Jackets.

The Jackets had a five-point lead with 4:26 to go when Black Devils' Ronnie Collins hit the only three-pointer of the game, cutting the Jacket lead to two.

Deming quickly followed with a tying basket.

With 3:25 reading on the clock, Deming took the lead by a Mike Cooper shot. The Jackets were never to regain the scoring lead.

They did tie it up at 24 all, then capture the Deming score again with a Tip Frymaer basket, making it 26 all, 1:49 to go.

Yet the Black Devils rolled ahead in the remaining minute and a half to a two-point lead from charity shots, both from a technical on a Jacket player and two free throws.

Deming jogged off the floor at halftime leading, 30-28.

It was the opening of the third quarter when the Black Devils jumped on the boards with six unanswered points in the first minute of play that cast a shadow on the game's outcome for the Jackets.

The Jackets began to match the Deming baskets never gaining ground. Deming led into the last quarter, 53-44.

Fourth quarter action opened with a Devils' Donnie Collins' bucket and free throw which notched the Devils up to a 10-point lead.

The Jackets again only traded baskets with the Devils, narrowing the Deming lead to an eight-point margin going into the final two minutes of the game.

In the final minute of play, the Black Devils hit five of six charity shots, Jackets Todd Day and Gannon Bryant fouling out.

The Devils celebrated at the buzzer, the boards reading 77-68.

After the game Coach Lee Cruse said the rebounds and second shots are what aided in the Deming victory.

"Their second shots and rebounds really killed us," he said.

Cruse added he didn't have a very good feeling coming into Friday night's ballgame.

"We didn't have any good practices all week," he said.

The Deming second shots aided them to outscore the Jackets 17-14 in the second quarter, 23-16 in the third and 29-24 in the final quarter.

Stolen balls and turnovers also played an important role for the Devils.

Nicholas turned the ball over 23 times as compared to the 15 turnovers of Deming. Deming stole the Jacket ball 14 times, nine steals alone came from the Devils' Conley.

The win boost the Deming Black Devils' record to 5-1, notches the Jackets to 2-2.

NCHS Bluejackets win over MMI, 84-41

Extends season record to 3-2

By Chip Miller
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Saturday the Bluejackets of Nicholas County carried their 2-2 record into Bourbon County against Millersburg Military Institute, bringing home a win, 84-41.

First quarter action saw the MMI cadets jump to an early three-point lead with 6:20 remaining on the clock.

After a timeout called by Coach Lee Cruse, the Jackets came out and compounded 12 points, matched by MMI's four.

The NCHS Jackets led into the second quarter, 16-9.

In the first four minutes of the second quarter, the Jackets went to the net for 11 points, answered by four from MMI.

After a Jacket timeout, the two teams traded scoring buckets to the half.

The Bluejackets walked into the locker room leading, 38-23.

It was in the third quarter the Jackets ran away with the game, scoring 32 points against MMI's six.

The Jacket scoring surge was led by Gannon Bryant with 12 points, 10 within three minutes.

Leading 70-29, going into the final quarter of play, Coach Cruse rested his starting team, and played most of his bench.

The Jackets saw the final score in their favor, 84-41.

Cruse said his Jackets had a good game, yet they still aren't playing consistently yet.

"We need to get a level of consistency in our playing from game to game," he said.

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Extends girl's season to 0-5

NCHS girls' first road game lost, 71-41

By Heather Mathes
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

FRANKFORT - It was a long trip to Frankfort last Thursday night for the Nicholas County girls basketball team and an even longer trip home.

Nicholas County's first road game began as a battle, ending in defeat, 71-41.

The first quarter of play saw Christel Bussell with the over-the-back tip to Tonya Moore and a turnover with the first seconds ticking away on the clock.

The battle for the ball was on.

Cindy Hamilton was fouled, she missed, and it was Bussell for the offensive rebound and first score of the game.

Chrisa Auxier was hanging tough on the boards with a defensive rebound as Lady Panther, S. Petit shots an inside shot and missed.

The first quarter closed with Nicholas County trailing by one, 17-16.

The second quarter got a tremendous start as Moore came out in the first five seconds to hit a 10-foot jumper from the corner on the Panther weak side.

It was the Jackets to the basket again as the Panther ball was stolen by Bussell.

Nicholas County came close to foul trouble so Coach Barbara Kenney called time out with 5:11 left in the quarter.

Kenney said, "We have got to take an organized defense to them, but we've got to also watch our fouls."

Once back in action, Moore immediately sets up a play for Warner to shift to the inside.

Warner shoots, misses, but gains her own rebound and passes to Bussell for two.

The last play of the first half came as Panther Petit shot a foul shot.

But it was Bussell to take it away on the defensive rebound and a shot from the top of the key allowed Nicholas to go into the halftime with the last shot.

Frankfort led on the boards though, 38-27.

The Jackets went to the locker room with three fouls on each Warner, Auxier and Moore.

The Panthers only had one player with three fouls.

Second half action saw the Jackets make the effort to stop the Panther offense as Bussell took the charge in the lane to draw a blocking foul on Winkfield.

It was Bussell again with the right-handed hook at the top of the key after a pass from Auxier.

Moore fouled out with 4:25 left in the quarter.

The score at the end of the quarter saw the Panthers leading, 54-33.

After several fouls, with two starters fouled out, Kenney calls a timeout with 4:30 on the clock.

Kenney said, "We might be down, but we need to set up some organization.

"Hit the big man on the inside and press the defense."

Auxier and Warner stayed in the game. Amy Simons, Christy Padgett and Penny McConnell were substituted.

Frankfort, with more than a 20-point lead, also called the press.

With 3:12 left in the game, Towana Trussell went in for Simons and and retrieved a Jackets' rebound.

Trussell caused a Panther to walk and it was Nicholas for two more by Auxier.

But the fight with the clock was futile. The final score told of the Blue Jackets' defeat, 71-41.

Kenney said of the game, "I thought the girls played a super first half, defense and offense.

"Our three starters fouled out and so I had to take Warner out from under the basket and use her on the point.

"That is what hurt us the most."

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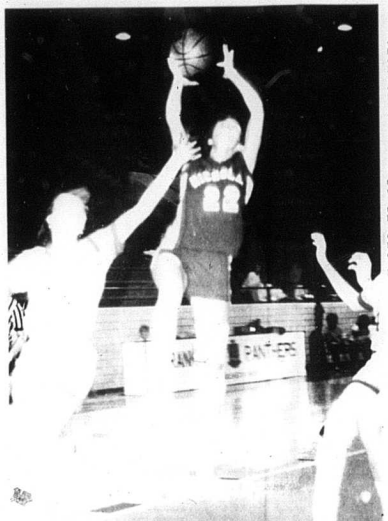

Christel Bussell, Blue Jacket senior, takes the easy lay-up as Frankfort's Petit tries to block the shot. Nicholas County was defeated by the Lady Panthers, 71-41. - Heather Mathes Photo

NCHS j.v. win first game, 41-30

The NCHS junior varsity boys won their first game of the season, beating the Deming Black Devils 41-30 in Friday night's matchup at Deming.

The Bluejackets jumped on an early lead and stayed ahead, going into halftime with a lead of 18-11.

"We are better organized," said coach Greg Letcher.

"It feels good to win," he said.

Letcher said the j.v. team are improving a little bit each game in the season.

"If they keep doing the things their doing now in practice and in the games, then they'll get better," he said.

Letcher said the j.v. Jackets still need to learn not to make as many turnovers each game.

"We've got to learn not to lose the ball as much. That ball is like gold to us, and we've got to treat it like that," he added.

Bluejacket sophomore David Sparks came out the highest scorer with 14 points. David Bretz followed with nine and William Workman with six.

NC freshmen lose two games

The Nicholas boys freshmen team played two games this past week, losing both.

The freshmen team extended their season to 0-5 after the two loses.

The first was against Clark County, 28-19, December 10 at home and Bourbon County, 45-32, on the road Monday night.

Coach Greg Letcher said the loss to Clark was close.

"We were trailing by three going into the last two minutes of the game," he said.

Letcher said the NCHS freshmen Jackets played exceptionally well.

"We've got to look for the shot and create some things in order to score on our offense," he said.

High scorers for the Jackets were: Brian Hilander with nine points; Shad Tibbs, six; and David Sibert and Collier Mathes with two apiece.

Letcher said the Bourbon game was also a close game.

"Bourbon is tough, and I think we played well," he said.

Letcher said the NCHS Jackets gave up 16 points in the fourth quarter and doomed the team in.

"I can see improvement each game," he said.

"Our defense stills needs work," he said.

NCHS high scorers for the Bourbon game were: Mathes, nine; Tibbs, eight; Hilsender, six, Todd Quinn, five, and Sibert with four.

Middle junior Jackets win two

Nicholas seventh and eighth grade boys came home victors after a win at Bethel, seventh grade, 24-16, eighth, 76-17.

"We led at half by a pretty big margin," said Coach Bob Story of both games. The seventh graders lead at the half, 18-5, the eighth graders, 47-11.

Everyone got to play in the games," Story said.

He said in both games the Nicholas County boys jumped to an early lead.

Seventh grade scorers for the Nicholas team were: Vikarbel Joseph, four; Aaron Judge, two; Steven Mattox, two; Brad Brierly, 13, and Brian Livingood with two.

Eighth grade scorers were: Daniel Brown, 10; Kevin Morris, six; Travis Sims, four; Brad Allison, 13; Jamie Simons, one; J.R. Wills, five; Greg Gilvin, 12; Mike Cain, three; Raymond Brown, 14; Jason George, two; Thomas Canupp, two; Greg Brierly, four, and Scotty Svatva with two.

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