

Cruse hopes Jackets live up to potential

By Chip Miller
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
Nicholas County Head Coach Lee Cruse thinks the potential is there for the boys varsity team to have a great season.

"If they make up their minds they want to play ball, this can be one of the best years Nicholas County could

ever have," Cruse said.
One advantage this season's Blue Jackets team has over teams of the past is its size.
"We're going to put one of the big great teams Nicholas County has ever had on the court," said Cruse.
Unlike teams in the past, said Cruse, this season's team has good inside height.

"We're going to be tough in size," Cruse said the one advantage he would like to have with the team is the option of going with the size they have now or try to have a little more speed.
"Right now we're running them hard, working harder than usual. We won't look tired in the fourth quarter," he said.

"Nicholas County is in the 37th district along with Bourbon and Harrison counties and Paris, just to name a few," he said.
Of the new three-point rule, Cruse said he's not going to depend on it like some coaches do in tight situations or to plan game strategy around it.
"But we're telling our kids that it's there, use it if you can," he said.
Cruse said the one concern he has coming into the 1987-88 season is the number of injuries.
"Kelly Brookshire had a collapsed lung last September and he's back now in practice but is only about 70-75 percent recovered," he said.
Cruse said some of the players were involved in 18 games this past summer in a league which provided excellent floor experience for some.

"Speed is the real question mark right now," he said.
Cruse said they are not going toiddle this year with allowing any one player to have a guaranteed position.
"We're going to play whoever works the hardest," he said.
Cruse said the attitude is good right now and the players have had good practices.

As for the schedule, Cruse said, "We don't play a watered down schedule. We're in one of the toughest districts in the state."

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Lee Cruse
NICHOLAS COUNTY HEAD COACH

Nicholas County High School 1987-88 Varsity Boys Basketball

Dec. 1	Bourbon Co.	.....Home
Dec. 4	Paris	.....Away
Dec. 5	Madison	.....Home
Dec. 11	Deming	.....Away
Dec. 12	M.M.I.	.....Away
Dec. 15	Frankfort	.....Away
Dec. 18	Mason Co.	.....Home
Dec. 26-30	Montgomery Tour	.....Away
Jan. 6-9	Mason Co. Tour	.....Away
Jan. 12	Menifee Co.	.....Home
Jan. 15	Model	.....Away
Jan. 19	Harrison Co.	.....Away
Jan. 22	Jessamine Co.	.....Home
Jan. 26	Pendleton Co.	.....Home
Jan. 29	Boyle Co.	.....Home
Feb. 2	Fleming Co.	.....Away
Feb. 5	Montgomery Co.	.....Home
Feb. 6	Bourbon Co.	.....Away
Feb. 9	Bracken Co.	.....Away
Feb. 12	Essex Co.	.....Away
Feb. 16	Maysville	.....Away
Feb. 19	Bath Co.	.....Away
Feb. 20	Sayre	.....Home
Feb. 26	Deming	.....Home

TV Begins at 6 p.m. - Varsity at 7:30 at Nicholas

At Nicholas County Cruse begins second year Hopes this is the year



Lee Cruse

By Chip Miller
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
Being his second year as boys basketball head coach at Nicholas County High School, Lee Cruse hopes to see plenty of improvements in his senior dominated team.

Yet, with the hope this might be the year for Nicholas County he still feels that win or lose, what the players learn from participating in high school athletics will influence them for the rest of their lives.
"Where else can some of them learn dedication and responsibility," he said.

He emphasized he thinks any athletic program, not just basketball, builds character which determines that future person.
Cruse is a native of Clark County where he coached for eight years before coming to Nicholas.

He attended Eastern Kentucky University after graduation from George Rogers Clark High School.
Cruse now teaches in the Resource Room at Nicholas High School.



Nicholas County Varsity: First row, left to right, Craig Jones, Scott Zornes, Coach Lee Cruse, Tip Fryman, Chad Mitchell, Andy Anderson, William Workman, Kevin Hughes, Collier Mathes, assistant coach Greg Letcher, Todd Gaunce and Tom Cobb. Second row, Michelle Havens, Cyndi Miller, Randy Jolly, Scott Allison, David Bretz, Kelly Brookshire, Danny Wells, David Sparks, Todd Day, Glen Stone, Gretchen Judge and Arveda Bonn. Chip Miller poses.

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at



Best of Luck
Bluejackets & Lady
Bluejackets



We're
All Pickin'
You
To Have
a Great
Season