

Jackets best Harrison in overtime, 60-63

By Chip Miller
 OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF
PARIS - Two free throws from Kelly Brookshire sealed a 63-60 win and a trip to the 10th Regional Tournament for the Nicholas County Bluejackets March 8.

Brookshire's two charity buckets helped the determined NCHS varsity boys to the three-point overtime victory over the Harrison County Thorbreds in the first round of the 37th District tourney.

Harrison jumped into an early five-point lead before the Jackets could respond.

It was Danny Walls who broke the scoring tie for the Jackets, Brookshire and Andy Anderson followed with one apiece.

The Jackets took the lead, 6-5, early in the opening period, forcing the Thorbreds into playing a catch-up game.

With 1:19 left in the first quarter, Todd Day drove to the basket for the bucket.

The Jackets had the lead, 12-6. David Fryman of the Thorbreds then hit a bucket from underneath

First Trip to Region since '84

with a minute remaining, setting up a Harrison scoring blitz.

Harrison closed out the first quarter by tying it at 12-12.

Much the same followed through out the second period.

A toe-to-toe battle for the buckets ensued for both teams, with the Jackets clinching out the period, half the way to the 10th region tourney.

Harrison jumped into the final five-point lead before the Jackets could respond.

It was Danny Walls who broke the scoring tie for the Jackets, Brookshire and Andy Anderson followed with one apiece.

The Jackets took the lead, 31-30, with a David Fryman bucket.

Tip Fryman put Nicholas back on top, and Day followed this with one of his own.

The Jackets' offense took control and a well-planned attack, placing two more buckets, from Anderson and Brookshire, to give the Jackets the advantage, 38-31.

The Thorbreds' Fryman then hit two charity buckets.

The Jackets' defense made Harrison cough on the ball and a quick Anderson to Fryman pass for the two put the Jackets into a 40-23 lead.

Harrison answered with eight quick points.

Nicholas attacked with its paired offense and a Fryman two.

The Thorbreds' Fryman closed the period in the final six seconds with a bucket.

Harrison led into the final quarter, 43-42.

Anderson opened the quarter with one of his 16 of the night.

Harrison lost the ball and the Jackets offense converted the turnover into a Day bucket.

With 4:45 to go, Anderson drove an easy layup to the basket.

"Thorbreds' Fryman answered with one of his own, tying it at 48-48.

Brookshire broke this after a pass

from Day.

Harrison called a timeout with 4:53 remaining.

Back onto the floor, with 3:51 on the clock, Walls fouled out.

Fryman put both charity shots on the Harrison scoreboard and the Thorbreds again tied it, 50-50.

Brookshire broke the tie spell.

Harrison's Fryman was again fouled, making both and again sending the two teams into a tie, 52-52.

With 1:28 remaining, Harrison's Fryman fouled Brookshire, who went to the line and made both buckets.

The Thorbreds answered with a well placed three-pointer from the corner, taking the lead, 55-54.


Field went to the line for the Thorbreds with 47 seconds remaining and made the first one, 56-54.

Anderson was fouled, went to the line and made both, propelling the Jackets into a tie, 56-56.

Harrison lost the ball to Nicholas with less than 10 seconds left.

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Jackets beat Harrison...

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Day made a futile throw from mid-court which fell short at the buzzer and the game went into overtime.

Anderson opened the final three minutes of play by going two for two at the line.

Harrison answered back, and David Fryman added two more to the Thorbreds' score.

Harrison led, 60-55, with one minute left.

Harrison's Fryman was called for offensive charging.

The Jackets called a timeout with 45 seconds remaining.

Back into action, Nicholas' offense took a cool 25 seconds to set up a shot.

Brookshire hit a three-pointer giving the Jackets the lead by one, 61-60.

Brookshire sealed the Jacket's victory with four seconds to play by hitting two charity buckets.

Harrison attempted a desperate final second three-pointer and failed.

Nicholas County walked away with the win, 63-60, and a spot in the 10th Regional Tournament.

Nicholas County Head Coach said the Jackets showed poise against Harrison.

"I'm real proud of them tonight. They came here and just had the bigger heart tonight," he said.

Cruse said turnovers were a big factor in the Jacket's win.

Nicholas had only 11 compared to Harrison's 15.

"We also kept them off their offensive rebounds," Cruse added.

"I have stayed with my same philosophy all season and that is to set up something in our offense and run with it," he said.

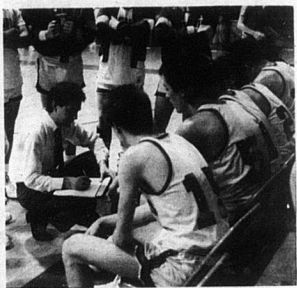
"We just wanted it more than they did tonight, that's all it is to it," Cruse said.

The Jackets shot 49 percent from the field, Harrison shot 29 percent.

Jackets' high scorer was Brookshire with 19. Anderson followed with 16. Day, 14. Fryman, 12; and Walls had two.

David Sparks, while failing to score, played an active roll in the Jacket's game plan. Grabbing several rebounds and handing out assists, he played coming off the bench.

Sparks contributed to the victory.



NCHS coach Lee Cruse instructs the Jackets in a recent game. - Hank Bond Photo

Jackets' emotions high in district opening win; Fan support GREAT!

By Hank Bond
 OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF

Analysis

PARIS - The gymnasium never was full, in fact with the total on hand, there probably wasn't enough to fill up one side, completely. But, that didn't matter... no, not at all.

What does matter was that Nicholas County's Bluejackets upset Harrison County to advance to the finals of the district... and with the win, on to the regional tournament next week at Mason County High School in Maysville.

That's what matters, oh, so much. To the fans... to the players... to the coaches... and what should matter to the Nicholas County community.

Nearly 30 minutes before tipoff, the band, might it be said, the bands were in an all out battle.

As soon as the NCHS musical group would quit, the Harrison County band would fire up.

At times, both bands were blaring at the top of their decibel levels as music and clapping filled the gym with some storbook type of emotions.

As the introductions were given, actually as the public address announcer welcomed the fans, the night got off to a very strange start.

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Sideline cheers
 NCHS cheerleaders helps the crowd to its feet during the final round of the 37th District March 8 between the Jackets and Bourbon County. - Chip Miller Photo

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