

Jackets look.....

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himself into a top notch player. "He will have to stop doing some of the things he has been doing - like committing uncontested fouls - and work hard at being a total basketball player."

At the number two spot Cruise pointed to two young men.

"Daniel Brown and Shad Tibbs will share some time at the number two guard position. They are inexperienced. I hate to take freshmen and put them in a situation of playing against 18 or 19 year-olds, but I just have to hope that experience will not discourage them."

"I'd hope to use Scott Ballard at the number two position - and bring the others off the bench - but Ballard had knee surgery and that will keep him out of action for a while."

"Brad Allison, who is also a young player, will see some

action off the bench.

"We'll have to depend on Brian Hilander. He's the type of player who will help you a lot when he is on the floor."

All of our players are working hard," Cruise said.

The third year head coach is optimistic about his team.

"Our practices are very aggressive, and each player is doing his part in those practice sessions."

In the past we've had six or seven players who would really work, and now we have a whole team, where everyone is scrapping after the ball - giving that extra."

"I hope as the season goes along all of this extra work will pay off."

"We have to get our team where we react. Not just be a mechanical team, but be able to play with instinct. This will all come with time and patience."

The 37th district may be one

of the toughest basketball districts in the state this basketball season.

Harrison County will have a new coach in Mike Reitz and MMI will hit the court under a new head man, and former head coach, Bill Mathes.

Russ Day's Bourbon County team has been ranked as high as number nine in the state - Paris in the top 20, although the lack of a quality big man may hurt. Bob Kades and his program. The fifth team in the district is of course Nicholas County.

The Jackets and Bourbon County represented the district in the 10th region tournament last season.

"I'll lay our schedule up against any schedule in the state," Cruise said. "It will be tough game after game."

I am impressed most with the attitude of the kids in the

pre-season," Cruise said Saturday afternoon.

"They have all worked hard - have good attitudes - great team spirit - and are absolutely not selfish."

"We may take our lumps, but we'll be all right, be competitive. The attitude and desire are the biggest things we have going for us."

Nicholas County opens its 1988 regular season, Tuesday, November 29, at Bourbon County.

Cruse on the jackets . . .

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Letcher predicts good season for junior boys

"Look for a very good season."

That's the prediction of Nicholas County High School Boys' Junior Varsity coach Greg Letcher as he begins the 1988-89 season.

"My basic philosophy with the kids has to do with their attitude," he said.

By trying to instill ideas like self-discipline in the kids he coaches, Letcher said he may help with their life skills.

"Self discipline," he said. "Doing things without being told, and these kids are at the age to develop these things."

Fundamentals, conditioning and team play are other aspects of the game Letcher is trying to convey. Goals for the freshmen players include each starter scoring in the double figures and 50 percent of those points should be from the field.

Offensively, Letcher said one third of scoring should come

from set offences, one third from fast breaks and one third from defense.

One of the pluses his team had is the fact that they have been playing together for four or five years and they should be able to anticipate each other. These athletes have also been playing other sports together for 4 or five years, which helps, Letcher said.

"That helps their athletic ability, their strength and their speed."

As for weaknesses, Letcher sees speed as their least positive force. That can be made up for by being fundamentally sound and being able to have a game plan and stick to it with few mistakes.

This will be a trying year for some players," Letcher said. "They're playing junior varsity and Varsity. How they come up against adversity will show how they play as juniors

and seniors. Hopefully they will try to improve, instead of giving up. Then, I expect they will be regional champs by the time they are juniors and seniors."

"What it all comes down to is the coaches can draw the A and O's, but the player have to

do the little things, like being able to apply pressure and take the pressure. If we can't do those things, we can't be competitive against the people we play against."

The season will begin at Bourbon County, November 29

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