

## For Nicholas County Football

# New coach Letcher has set three goals

By Josh Shepherd  
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Nicholas County High School Head Football Coach Greg Letcher said among his three goals for this year is to still be playing football in November.

The change in football coaches this year has been an easy transition, Letcher said, because he has been head coach of many of the players on this team in the seventh and eighth grade as well as an assistant coach for the varsity team.

Letcher replaced Robbie Barr, who has left the system to work with Paris Schools.

Letcher has experience in the football program at Nicholas County in more ways than one.

In addition to working on the sidelines as a coach for several seasons, Letcher, who is a Nicholas County High School graduate, also toiled on the gridiron for the Bluejackets.

With that in mind - knowing the past traditions of Nicholas County football - Letcher is making plans to make 1989 a successful season for the program.

He outlined three goals he wants to achieve during his time as coach.

"I want the team to represent Nicholas County in a positive way. I want the team to be competitive, and I want to be playing football in November.

"We have strong potential and I think as long as the team remains mentally

tough through this season, we have a shot at getting into the playoffs," Letcher said.

The biggest strength the team has, he said, is numbers, although the roster for 1989 sports only six seniors. "41 players came out this season with 31 of them returning from last year's team, and of the 41, 37 are in high school. We did lose seven starters from last year which include most of the backfield and line, but we have quality people in who can take their place," he said.

Morale is high, he said, and that is a real plus for the team. He said he is working hard at instilling a sense of pride, loyalty, and discipline in the players

which he hopes will improve even more as the season continues.

"We don't have too many new players, so most already know what is expected of them. The kids feel really good so far and that makes me feel optimistic about their performance and their potential."

"They are all competitive in practice and show a willingness to learn," Letcher said.

One thing Letcher said he hopes the players will learn is there is no "I" in "team".

"To have a good team means having everybody work as hard as they can. A backfield works only if the front line does their job."

Speed and quickness is

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## New coach Letcher

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one of the weaknesses of the varsity, Letcher said, but the major weakness is mental toughness.

"The team has a tendency to lose focus of the prime mission they have on the field. In scrimmages there have been some missed opportunities that have turned into losses.

"To be mentally tough means the team must maintain its poise in the fourth quarter. The quarterback especially must be mentally tough because, though the entire team must be sharp, it is the quarterback that must maintain control of the team. And, at their age, it is a tough thing sometimes to do."

"I'm expecting a lot from my players. I expect that though they may not win,

that they will remain competitive throughout the game," Letcher said.

He said the team is also young and inexperienced. There are not many players who have been with the team for four straight years, he said. There is also a wide difference in maturity level in all the players and as a coach, he said he has had to adjust himself to the kids.

"The seventh and eighth graders are much more active, they like to run around, whereas the older players are more likely to sit and listen. That is why there must be discipline on the team for all of them to get the plays down and know their jobs out on the field," he said.

"We'll make mistakes in the early going and we'll do what is necessary to elimi-

nate them when they come up."

"Unfortunately, because I became head coach late in the summer, I have not had the time to schedule a scrimmage. Our first game against Fleming County will be the first test of the

team's performance on the field," he said.

Letcher would like to thank the community, businesses, parents, school administration, assistant coaches, and the players for their support for this season.

## Coach Letcher profiles opponents team-by-team

By Josh Shepherd  
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

First Year, Nicholas County High School Head Football Coach Greg Letcher said as far as he is concerned, Nicholas County has no specific rivalry with which to contend.

Each game has its special considerations and he will approach them all equally as hard.

"I am looking forward to each game in the season and I expect my players to conduct themselves properly as representatives of Nicholas County."

"I look for a good, productive and competitive year," Letcher said.

Coach Letcher gave his outlook for the teams

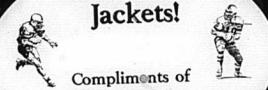
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