

# Nicholas roars to win

By Josh Shepard  
For The Carlisle Mercury

## SPORTS EXTRA

Though the Berea Pirates came very close to taking the lead in the third quarter, the Nicholas County Bluejackets were able to rally and hold onto the lead and win, 78-56.

The Jackets came out strong in the first quarter, led by Travis Sims opening points, to move quickly to a 7-2 lead within three minutes.

Mike Sower scored Berea's first points within 15 seconds of the start of the game, but the Pirates moved slowly.

Daniel Brown added back to back three pointers to jump the Jackets' lead to 13 before Pirate Tommy Johnson gunned a three-point shot with 4:27 left in the quarter to start Berea's slow climb back to contention.

There followed a period where neither side could seem to sink the ball.

Mike Bingham dropped two foul shots to bring the Pirates' score to seven.

Berea's Sean Conner tried for a quick pass to Johnson, but the score went wide, however Mike Bingham took the rebound and scored two. With that score the Pirates were trailing by four points.

However, tipped to close the gap further were dashed with Sims missing a shot from the right side of the court at 2:30 for three points as the Jackets enjoyed a commanding 16-8 lead.

Sowers laid in another set of foul shots, but Brown, blasting down the court made a quick two while Sims on a one and bonus foul shot, plunked in one and the Jackets moved to 19 points.

Sowers continued to score for the Pirates, but by the end of the quarter, assisted by another two from Sims, the Jackets had climbed to a 21-14 lead.

James Simmons and David Sparks controlled most of the Jackets' scoring in the second quarter.

Sparks, working under the basket, rebounded Berea's three-point attempt and saved a scoring opportunity.

However, not long after Sparks' Sims, proved his value on the court, shot, Sims, logging his third foul sliding in two points for Jackets on Mike Bingham. Fortunately for score of 41.

Hilander sent Berea a pass which set up the Jackets' next two and the Pirates found themselves in nine points behind.

Hilander made a steal and handed the opportunity to Brown who added another three pointer to nine points behind.

Johnson, fouled by Hilander, brought the Pirates' score to 18 with two shots and Mike Bingham plunked in another foul shot for 19 with 4:40 to go in the half.

Simons went twice to the foul line but scored only once. There were nearly the last scores the Jackets had in the second quarter. In the meantime the Pirates brought four points to their score to trail by six points, one score coming from Sowers and the other, brought on by a steal from the Jackets by Conner, was made by Jerry Bingham.

Sowers rejected a shot from Hilander and brought the ball back down the court, firing in a two-point shot for a 29-29 tie.

Sparks ended the half with a final second two point shot. The score stood at 31-25.

It was a full minute into the third quarter before Brown finally shot in a lay up on the fast break, but Berea was not slow to answer as Jerry Bingham gunned two to stay within six of catching the Jackets.

Sparks shot went short and Sowers, on the rebound, pushed the Pirates to 29 points.

After Brown brought the Jackets back to six points off two foul shots, Sowers continued to maintain pressure, sliding a shot in for 31 points.

Hilander gave the Jackets a little breathing room with a score from far right of the basket and Brown helped the Jackets along with a high flying lay up at 4:29 and the Jackets were again on top.

However, Sims bumped himself late in the game with a foul on Johnson, who made both his shots.

Roger Willoughby, replacing tunity.

back. With the foul shot the Pirates were back within three and Steve Skuse brought them to a one point trail with 44 seconds left in the quarter, the score, 48-47.

Brown's three point shot attempt went long and the third ended with Nicholas holding onto a slim three point lead.

However, the fourth quarter proved to be the Pirates undoing as they could not seem to move past the 47 point mark for well over half of the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, Brown and Hilander brought the Jackets out of trouble, aided by Sparks two foul shots to bring the Jackets to an 11 point lead at 58-47.

Greg Gilvin, in for the first time, helped in bringing about a four point play as he was fouled after making a two point shot. His one foul shot went wide, but Sparks came up with the rebound, dumping the ball back in for 60-47.

With 2:00 left in the fourth, the Jackets started back a rest and the second team took the court with good results.

Kevin Morris gunned in two points with 46 seconds left, Jerry Bingham returning down court for two points.

Brad Brierly fired in a three point shot for Nicholas final score in the game, but Berea answered with a three pointer and the game ended with Nicholas well on top, 78-56, and moving to a 2-0 record.

Though Head Coach Lee Cruse was pleased with the win, he felt the Jackets did not play up to the level they are capable.

"They began to play Berea's ball game and as a result, Berea almost took the lead," Cruse said. "We cannot break the Harringtons and Bourbons if we try to play their game instead of our own."

However, he is pleased with the performance of individual players, especially in the second half. Gilvin and Simons, he said, are developing quality players and Hilander is emerging as a leader for the team.

Sparks' scorers: Nicholas-21, and Hilander-12.



Daniel Brown goes for two.



Travis Sims shoots in front of Berea's Sean Conner for an unorthodox lay up.



Berea Phila Tommy Johnson fights Daniel Brown for possession of the ball while being covered by Travis Sims. Johnson was in part responsible for Berea's near comeback in the third quarter, but Nicholas was able to put together enough scores to take the game away from the Pirates.

## LITTLE LEAGUE

**B-Teams**  
Kats 12 F. Trussell 1, Hobbs 1, Schandling 8, Hatfield 1, K. Trussell 1; Phillips 5-Warner 2, Tapp 1, Floy 2.  
Jets 7-Robinson 2, Grey 4, Prather 1; Rockets 6-Stone 4, Bloomfield 1, Caswell 1.  
Mustangs 6-Pay 1, Hopkins 5, Horvath 5-Hamilton 2, T. Williams 1, Hunt 1, Brown 1.  
Robets 10-Willis 2, Broderick 8, Bulls 6-Jenkins 1, Hamilton 2, McNabb 1, Fryman 1.  
Patriots 4-Ebanks 4, Collins 1, Becker 1.  
Rookies 10-Miller 1, Watkins 2, Clark 2, Mathes 1, D. Ritchie 2, B. Ritchie 2, Hawks 7-Livingood 5, Peitl 1, Minton 1.  
Demons 14-Bowles 8, Jones 1, K. Vice 4; Bears 10-Smoot 2, Earlywine 2, Dixon 1, Eaton 4, p.m. Horvath vs. Celtics.  
**A-Teams**  
Kats 24-Axtor 12, Caswell 8, McNabb 3, A. Flora 1.  
Jets 23-Bassell 14, McLean 6, 7-6, Demons 1-7, Horvath 1-7, Stone 4, Dunn 8, Linville 2.  
Mustangs 13-Smoot 10, Lang 3; Horvath 6-Barnet 4, Hamilton 2.  
Robets 27-Simpson 8, Sapp 6, Morris 6, Wills 6, Broderick 1; Bulls 19-Fulton 12, Massey 2, Cook 5.  
Patriots 22-Vice 14, Mitchell 6, Allison 2, Collins 13-Arnold 6, Kenney 5, Hamilton 2.  
Hawks 30-Fryman 10, Cook 6, Burns 3, Sims 7, Mitchell 4; Rockets 9-Cleaver 3, Clark 4, B. Ritchie 2.  
Bears 22-Smoot 6, Eaton 2, Burton 12, Miller 2; Demons 1-Bowles 1.  
**Saturday, December 16**  
2 p.m. Saints vs. Phillips; 3 p.m. Mustangs vs. Bears; 4 p.m. Robets vs. Patriots; 5 p.m. Jets vs. Rookies; 6 p.m. Hawks vs. Rockets; 7 p.m. Demons vs. Bulls; and 8 p.m. Horvath vs. Celtics.  
**Standing Record**  
Bears 6-0; Hawks 7-1; Robets 7-1; Mustangs 4-4; Rookies 3-5; Rockets 6-6; Demons 1-7; Horvath 1-7; Celtics 0-8; Kats 6-0; Phillips 2-4; Saints 1-5.

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