

Lady Colonels prevail, 46-38

By Josh Shepherd
For The Carlisle Mercury
SPORTS EXTRA

The Lady Jackets fell quickly to a catch up game to the Bourbon County Lady Colonels Monday night, but still made quite a game of it as the Lady Jackets began their season with a 46-38 loss.

The Jackets seemed to lack shooting power in the first quarter which drove them to a 10 point deficit at 1:17, but as a moment in the second quarter the Colonels experienced a slow climb up the scoreboard with only one score that brought them to 15 points.

Meanwhile the Jackets poured on pressure with a score from Christy Hutton from the foul line and a quick score from Kristi Barton brought the Jacket total to 13, five points behind the leader.

Tacy Earlywine set up a pass to Nikki Smoot, but the shot went shy of the goal.

The Colonels worked the outside but could not seem to bring the ball in close as the Jackets zone defense kept a tight hold on inside control.

Hutton attempted a three point shot to bring the Jackets to within two, but the ball hit the rim and failed to clear the basket.

Shannon Gillispie brought the Colonels two points from the foul line after being fouled twice by Kristi Barton to put the Colonels up to a 20-13 lead by the half.

The second half, however, was a different story for the Jackets as they suddenly jumped in to high from the right side. However, the Colonels answered with a score and foul shot, but found they could not move easily from the 23 point score.

Denkins, in the middle of the third quarter, was fouled and sank her second shot to bring the Jackets to 16 points.

Smoot followed that score up with a two point shot from under the foul line and Hutton brought in another score to suddenly find themselves within three points of catching the Colonels.

The Jackets did that very thing when Smoot from the top of the key sank a three point shot to tie the game at 23 all.

Afterwards it was a race to move from the 23 spot.

Denkins rejected Becky Gillispie's shot, but Christa Auxier's three point attempt went awry. Denkins rebounded and sent the ball back to Auxier, but

again the shot failed to strip the net.

Nor could Earlywine's two foul shots bring the Jackets out on top as they both fell short of the mark.

Becky Gillispie finally broke the tie when she made it inside and plunked a lay up, followed by another quick two pointer from Stacy Reed to bring the Colonels out of a sticky situation and a 27-23 lead with 3:10 left in the third.

Elizabeth Schandling came in to replace Barton and sank a two pointer to again challenge the Colonels lead.

But the shots on the Jackets side became less frequent and on foul calls burdened the Jackets efforts to challenge. The Colonels managed to log a five point lead off foul shots. With Lisa Gilbert's score in the final seconds of the third quarter, the Colonels still held to their lead by a score of 32-26.

Heather McCarty opened fourth quarter scoring to advance the Colonels to 34 points, but failed to hold onto the eight point lead as Smoot stole the ball from Becky Gillispie and scored for a 34-28 game.

Smoot followed up with another two points at 6:28 to bring the Jackets within four points of tying.

Shannon Gillispie moved the Colonels lead to five with a foul shot, but Hutton came back with a two pointer to challenge the lead again.

The Colonels soon afterward began to move the score beyond the Jacket's reach.

Gilbert plugged two foul shots and then a well-executed fast break to Becky Gillispie went over Smoot's head for a 39-32 ball game.

But ball control went over to Bourbon and with several foul shots in the final seconds and Bourbon pulled away with 46 points.

However Auxier came up with a final second three pointer to end the game with the Colonels on top, 46-38.

Coach Barbara Kenney felt the Jackets played a much better ball game in the second quarter because they came out more aggressive despite a relatively young and inexperienced starting team.

She said the girls need to get over being intimidated by older teams, but she said she has seen much improvement in their play over a very short period of time.

The difference, however, despite their aggression, Kenney said, was the number of foul shots they gave Bourbon throughout the game.

"We lost three of our starting team to fouls and if we are going to be competitive, we need to keep from racking up fouls like we did," Kenney said.

However, Kenney said the Colonels in the opening of the second half and she feels that is an indication of promise for the rest of their schedule.

Nikki Smoot led Nicholas County with 16 points, the only Jackets player to hit double figures.

Christie Hutton had six points, five assists and six rebounds, as Christa Auxier had four points and three rebounds.

Kim Denkins finished with three points and 12 rebounds, tops for Nicholas County, in her first varsity participation. She also had two blocked shots.

Elizabeth Schandling had three points, as Amy Simons, Kristi Barton and Tacy Earlywine all had two points.

Nicholas County had 16 turnovers, 13 steals and 14 assists. The Jackets were seven of 18 from the free throw line for 39 percent and a cool 15 of 54 from the field for 27 percent.



SPORTS EXTRA/ Josh Shepherd Photo
Kim Denkins braces herself for the layup while Bourbon County's Regina Adams(50) and Heather McCarty set up to block or rebound the shot.



Jama Simons rejects an attempted Comet score toward the end of the scrimmage between the Bluejackets and the West Carter Comets. However, the Comets went on to take the game, 73-72.



SPORTS EXTRA/ Josh Shepherd Photo
Becky Gillispie reaches to block Nikki Smoot's shot despite being blocked out by (53) Amy Simons. Though a set back, the Lady Colonels were able to maintain a lead throughout the game and win, 46-38.