SPORTS

Proctor unveils his first squad

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

MOREHEAD — Cole Proctor unveiled his first Morehead State University football squad at the team's annual media day last Thursday.

Proctor, MSU Vice - President for University Advancement Keith Kappes and MSU President Dr. C. Nelson Grote spoke to the gathering hosted by MSU Sports Information Director Randy Stacey in the Academic - Athletic Convocation Center.

Proctor, in what was considered a surprise, announced the Eagles will run the wishbone on offense.

The surprise is that Morehead returns record-breaking quarterback Chris Swartz of Olympia.

"I'm not stupid," Proctor said. "Chris Swartz fits into our plans. There are a lot of variations in the wishbone and controlling the ball on the ground is necessary to our ability to pass."

The wishbone variation, besides highlighting Swartz's passing ability, should also showcase senior running back, Jerome Williams.

Williams, reception leader in the Ohio Valley Conference in the last two seasons, has ran and caught the ball well in practice, Proctor said.

In addition, sophomore Anthony Jerdine of Beachwood, Ohio has had a good preseason, according to Proctor.

Proctor emphasizes using the passing ability of Swartz within the wishbone offense. The new coach has several reasons for the switch.

First, the Eagle coach wants an offense where he can recruit people to fit into places. "A Chris Swartz only comes along once in a while," the Eagle head man noted, "the last time Morehead had one like him was several years ago and he (Phil Simms) is still playing in the NFL."

Secondly, the Morehead leader wants to give his defense a chance to rest.

"We're going to do what it takes to establish a running game," Proctor emphasized, "if all you can do is throw, you're off the field in a minute when the other team stops you. It puts a lot of pressure on your defense and makes them tired. We're committed to running the football."

Proctor sees the upcoming season as centering on the health of the former Bath County quarterback. "Swartz is tough mentally and has bounced back well from the spring's injuries. He broke his wrist in the spring game and also had arthoscopic surgery performed on his shoulder this spring."

Proctor stated the defensive line also needs to be healthy for the Eagles to be successful this season.

The offensive line, which averages 6-3 and 274 pounds, has picked up the new blocking assignments well, according to the head coach. "They've adapted pretty well. You have to eliminate the doubts in their minds and simplify things to let them play aggressive football."

Two other points the coach addressed at the media day were the suspension of defensive back Darrell Beavers and the coach's emphasis on recruiting in Eastern Kentucky.

Proctor said the Beavers case is under review at this time and would make no comment on the possible outcome.

The Morehead coach indicated he had every intention of recruiting heavily in Eastern Kentucky. Proctor said he did not feel Eastern Kentucky had the population base to totally support the program and said he would recruit elsewhere when it was needed.

The Carlisle Mercury-Hank Bond Photo
The Carlisle Mercury's Tim Jones questions new Morehead State University Head Football Coach Cole Proctor on the status of his Eagles team prior to the season opener, Saturday, September 1, at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Proctor is a 1966 MSU graduate, who took the reigns of the program this year. Proctor played on Morehead's last Ohio Valley Conference Championship team in 1966. The two met during press day activities at MSU, last Thursday.

The Carlisle Mercury/Russ Metz, Bath County News Outlook
Morehead State's Ryan Jones a freshman from Bath County (left) and Chris Swartz, a senior from Bath County, pose with MSU Head Coach Cole Proctor during press day, last Thursday on the Morehead State campus.

The Carlisle Mercury/Russ Metz, Bath County News Outlook
The Carlisle Mercury Publisher Hank Bond talks with new MSU Head Football Coach Cole Proctor during press day activities last Thursday in Morehead.

FOLLOW THE JACKETS AND THE EAGLES
With Tim Jones, Kara Read,
Pam Bowles and Hank Bond
In THE CARLISLE MERCURY

Swartz continues to set records

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

MOREHEAD — Former Bath County quarterback Chris Swartz begins his senior year with a chance to break a few records at Morehead State.

He already owns most of them.

The Olympia native holds Morehead State records in nearly every passing category. Swartz owns the total yardage records for a game and a career, completions, attempts and passing yardage for a game, season and career.

Swartz should break school records for offensive plays and touchdown passes for a career. The senior quarterback is only 70 plays behind the Eagle record held by New York Giant Phil Simms. He has 35 touchdown passes and needs only two more to tie the Morehead record of 37.

While Morehead is planning the switch to the run-oriented wishbone offense both Swartz and new Eagles head coach Cole Proctor said Swartz would still throw the ball.

"I didn't throw the ball as much last year as I had in the past," the 6-3,195 pound senior stated, "and I had the most yards I've ever had."

Swartz did have his doubts when the "bone" was first unveiled.

"There were some rough adjustments. I thought 'What did I get myself into.' I'm not the fastest guy in the world and I'm more of a mental player than a physical player," the four-year starter noted.

Swartz said the wishbone problems have started to work themselves out. "I worked on it a lot over the summer and its gotten better. You have to establish the run so you can pass."

The Bath County native is looking forward to the start of the season. "Our first five games are tough. We hope to learn from the first five games and be ready for conference play."

The Morehead quarterback said Marshall, a traditional Eagles' rival, promises to be a tough opponent. "Marshall is a lot like us. They have a new system and a new coach. But they always have a good team."

The Eagles' quarterback indicated the team had rallied around new Coach Cole Proctor. "He sticks with the rules and applies them to everybody. He's a stern disciplinarian."

The biggest problem Swartz said he is likely to have is the switch from being a drop-back passer to an option quarterback, "I just have to get used to going forward instead of backwards."

In Huntington, September 1

Thundering Herd is first challenge

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — The Morehead State University football Eagles will open the 1990 football season this Saturday, September 1 at Marshall University. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m., in Huntington's Fairfield Stadium.

Both Morehead State Coach Cole Proctor and Marshall Head Coach Jim Donnan are beginning their college head coaching careers after successful tenures as assistant coaches.

Proctor, a two year letterman for Morehead in 1965 and 1966 came to his alma mater ('68) from the staff at Utah and also served as an assistant coach at Iowa State, San Diego State and East Tennessee State. He replaced Bill Baldridge, who had served as head coach for six seasons with an overall record of 20-45-0. Baldridge resigned for health related reasons at the end of the 1989 season.

Not since former Ashland (Paul G. Blazer) High School coach John (Jake) Hallum (1968-1971) took the helm of MSU has Morehead had a coach leave with a winning season.

Hallum put together a record of 22-17-1 during his career.

Guy Penney, who coached at Morehead from 1959-67 had a record of 39-39-2 and led the Eagles to their last Ohio Valley Conference Championship in 1966. It is ironic, Proctor was a standout performer on that team which finished 7-2-0. The two losses that season were to Marshall University (in the season's opener) and a road game at Middle Tennessee State.

Donnan was the offensive coordinator at Oklahoma before coming to Marshall.

For the fifth consecutive year Marshall is the opening game opponent for Morehead State. Marshall has won four of those meetings. The last MSU win came in 1986, 1 19-10 decision in Huntington. It had been 10 years, 1976, since Morehead had defeated its interstate rival, 31-14.

The Thundering Herd from Marshall University leads the overall series 27-11-3. The two schools first met in 1928. Last season Marshall led 3-0 at intermission and won 30-7.

Proctor returns home in 1990

MOREHEAD — Cole Proctor, a two-time graduate of Morehead State University, was named his alma mater's 12th head football coach on December 14, 1989.

He replaced former Eagle teammate Bill Baldridge, who had resigned citing health problems. Proctor and Baldridge were teammates on the 1966 Eagle squad that won the Ohio Valley Conference championship.

Proctor, a native of Meriden, Connecticut, came to MSU from the position of assistant coach at Utah. He had served as an assistant coach at Utah since December, 1986. Prior to joining the Utah staff, he spent one season as assistant coach at Iowa State.

He spent five seasons as assistant coach at San Diego State University (1981-85). For two seasons (1979-80), he was an assistant coach at East Tennessee State University.

He had a successful tenure as head football coach at Lees-McRae College, where he also served as athletic director, for three years (1976-78). Prior to heading the Lees-McRae program, he spent three years as head football coach at Keene (N.J.) High School, where he was named New Jersey Coach of the Year by the Newark Star Ledger.

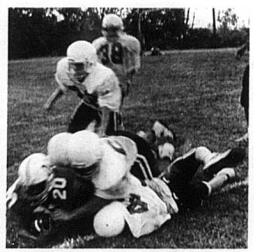
He was an assistant coach at Gardner-Webb College for three seasons (1969-71). Prior to that, he had spent one season (1968) as an assistant coach at Lees-McRae.

During the 1967-68 academic year, he served as a graduate assistant at MSU.

Proctor graduated from Lyman High School in Wallingford, Connecticut, and also attended Bridgton Academy in North Bridgton, Maine, and State College of Iowa, now the University of Northern Iowa, before coming to MSU.

He earned a bachelor's degree with an area of concentration in health, physical education and recreation from MSU in 1967. He earned a master's degree in education with emphasis in physical education from MSU in 1968. He has done additional graduate work at the University of South Carolina and at Farleigh Dickinson University.

Proctor and his wife, Marti, have two children, Susan and Thomas.



The Carlisle Mercury/Tim Jones Photo
The Nicholas County Junior Varsity and Freshmen teams played Lewis County Monday evening. The NCHS freshmen lost 21-0 in the opening game but the Junior Varsity came back to win the nightcap 20-6.

SPORTS

Jackets buzz Raiders, 27-0

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

GRAYSON — The Nicholas County Bluejackets made a long trip worthwhile Friday night as they whitewashed East Carter 27-0 for their first victory of the season.

Led by the passing of quarterback Daniel Brown and the running of halfback Raymond Brown the Nicholas County offense operated in high gear.

The Bluejackets defense, facing a much bigger East Carter team, dominated the line of scrimmage and allowed the home team only two first downs in the game.

The game started slowly for both squads. After kicking to East Carter to open the game, Nicholas County stopped the Raiders with a third down sack which resulted in an 11 yard loss. The ensuing East Carter punt gave the Bluejackets offense the ball on the Raiders 46.

Junior Raymond Brown gained five yards on a quick hitter on Nicholas County's first offensive play of the game and this was followed by a first down run by Shawn Bussell with 9:07 left in the first quarter. The following two rushing plays were halted with short gains. Quarterback Brown then connected on a pass to 6-3, 205 pound junior Travis Sims.

The catch and run was good for 17 yards and gave the Bluejackets a first down on the Raiders 20 yard line with 7:37 left in the first quarter.

The Nicholas County drive then played out and the visitors turned the ball over on downs at the East Carter 24.

The home team managed a long run but coughed up the ball up on a hard hit and Nicholas County got the ball back.

Once again, however, the Jackets were unable to move the ball and turned the pigskin over on downs deep in East Carter territory.

The Nicholas defense, superb all night, held fast again and forced East Carter to punt from its own 23 yard line with a 1:30 left in the first quarter.

Two runs by Raymond Brown gave the Bluejackets a first down and the junior followed this with a nifty 11 yard run as time wound down in the first quarter, giving the visitors a first down on the Raiders' 21 yard line as the second quarter opened.

After two inconsequential running plays, Daniel Brown hooked up with senior wide receiver Jebron Farah to give the Bluejackets their first score of the night. The touchdown pass covered 21 yards and gave the Nicholas County visitors an early 6-0 lead. An attempted two-point conversion failed.

Nicholas County kicked off and again stymied the Raiders offense. The Bluejackets received the ball on the following punt at their own 46 yard line and immediately began another scoring drive.

A 27 yard pass completion to senior end Mike Johnson was followed by a 12 yard run by Raymond Brown, giving the Jackets a first down at the East Carter 15 yard line with 7:29 left in the second quarter.

A reversal to wingback Farah was good for 12 more yards and Shawn Bussell stormed in from three yards out on third down to give the visitors a 12-0 lead. The two-point conversion was good and gave the Bluejackets a 14-0 lead with 6:53 remaining in the first half.

The kickoff was fielded by East Carter at its own 21 and advanced to the 35. The Raiders generated their only sustained offense of the night here. Thanks in part to Nicholas County penalties and a good run the Raiders were able to pick up a first down and advance the ball to the Bluejackets 38 yard line.

The Nicholas County defense stiffened following an eight yard Raiders rush to the 30. Pat Phillips, a junior linebacker, shot the gap and pulled the East Carter quarterback down for a six yard loss. East Carter then attempted a fourth down pass and it fell incomplete, giving the Bluejackets the ball on their own 34.

A stop and start drive on the part of the Bluejackets gave the Raiders the ball back on their 35. The Raiders converted a fake punt into a first down but lost the ball on a diving interception by Raymond Brown as the half came to a halt.

Nicholas County came out in the second half and immediately began to build on its 14-0 lead. Shawn Bussell fielded the short kick off on the Bluejackets 31 and returned it to the 50.

The Nicholas County squad then marched the remaining distance in 11 plays. The drive was highlighted by two pass completions by Daniel Brown, one coming on third and six and completed to 6-2, 185 pound junior tight end Greg Gilvin.

Following the completions, Raymond Brown skirted around right end and dove for the end zone, winding up a half yard short of a touchdown. On the next play, Brown tried it again with success and staked the Bluejackets to a 20-0 lead with 6:37 left in the third quarter.

The two point attempt failed and the Bluejackets kicked off to the East Carter squad.

East Carter was once again halted by the Nicholas County defense. The Bluejackets defense was aligned in a 6-3 formation all night, which Coach Greg Letcher had improvised in order to stop the wishbone attack of the Raiders.

The 6-3 worked and the Raiders were forced to punt yet again.

The revved up Jackets offense drove the ball deep into Raiders country only to lose the ball in the East Carter end zone on a fumble with nine seconds left in the third period.

East Carter opened the fourth quarter with the ball on its own 20. The Raiders offense attempted a short pass which was picked off by cornerback Daniel Brown.

Brown pilfered the ball on the Raiders 25 and sailed into the end zone untouched. The point after was good and Nicholas County led 27-0.

Following another three downs and out by East Carter the Bluejackets began substituting in their offensive formations.

The highlight of the second team offense, and perhaps of the game, was a 74 yard run by defensive tackle turned halfback Chris Compton.

Compton penetrated the left side of the line, turned out and bolted away from all pursuers, racing nearly the length of the field untouched. Unfortunately for Compton and the Bluejackets, a clipping penalty brought the ball back, wiping out the long touchdown run.

Nicholas County Coach Greg Letcher was happy with his team's performance, but said the team was beat up a little. Jebron Farah injured his wrist and had it wrapped after the first quarter and sophomore lineman Justin Abnee suffered a hand injury.

The Bluejackets coach was pleased with the defense and felt the 6-3 worked well in stopping the East Carter wishbone. While not mentioning players names, Letcher also felt there were some outstanding performances on offense.

The Bluejackets return to the gridiron next Friday night, facing Mason County in Carlisle.

Jackets face Mason Co., Friday night in Carlisle

By Tim Jones
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Nicholas County's Bluejackets, fresh from a 27-0 shutout of East Carter, will face Mason County at 8 p.m. Friday night at the Nicholas County field.

Bluejackets Coach Greg Letcher said he expects a tough game from Mason County and feels their size makes them a team to reckon with.

"Mason County has a 245 pound fullback," Letcher noted, "and we've had problems with him the last two years. You put him behind an offensive line that averages 275 pounds and they have the capability of being competitive with anyone."

Mason County lost their first game of the season, 39-0, to Covington Scott. "I don't think that shows the true Mason County team," Letcher said.

Mason County will show a variety of offenses. For the most part, they go with a split backfield and run the veer, according to Letcher.

On defense, Letcher expects a lot of the wide tackle six, complete with blitzing linebackers and an eight or nine man line on occasion.

Mason County has had a week off to lick its wounds from the Covington Scott defeat and Letcher figures they will be prepared for Friday night's game.

Nicholas County comes into the game on an upbeat note, having disposed of East Carter last Friday in Grayson. Injuries, though, have left the Bluejackets hurting.

Seniors Brian Hilander and Jebron Farah, both wide receivers, have been injured in the first two games. Hilander has a broken foot and Farah a broken wrist.

"We lost our two primary receivers when those guys got hurt," Letcher noted, "they were guys who dedicated themselves and worked hard."

Not only will Nicholas County miss the physical presence of Hilander and Farah, Letcher explained, but the leadership and example the two seniors set. "They were both captains, never missed practice, and had good attitudes.They were also people we could turn to at crucial times."

Letcher noted the two might be able to return but plans to practice like they will be out for the year.

"We'll go ahead and get ready for Mason County and Harrodsburg like they aren't coming back. And if they do, we'll just be ahead,"Letcher said.

NCHS FOOTBALL
1990 Game Stats
VS Fleming Co.

Rushing	CA	YDS	TD
R. Brown	21	112	1
Tibbs	6	19	0
S. Bussell	8	41	1
Phillips	2	1	0
C. Compton	2	4	0
D. Brown	3	6	0
Farah	1	12	0
Ockerman	2	0	0

Passing AT	CO	I	TD YD
D. Brown 15	9	0	110 1
Ockerman 1	1	0	8 0

Receiving	RE	YD	TD
Sims	3	38	0
R. Brown	1	3	0
Farah	2	27	1
Johnson	1	23	0
Gilvin	1	9	0
Bussell	1	10	0
JimCompton	1	8	0

Punts	NO	YDS	AVG
OJeerman	2	61	31

KO Returns	NO	YDS	TD
Tibbs	1	16	0
Punt Ret.	NO	YDS	TD
Farah	1	2	0

Tackles/Det. Stats

Player	S	A	FR
Jones	5	2	0
Phillips	2	1	0
Hymon	0	0	1
Bussell	2	0	0
R. Brown	3	0	0
Farah	0	1	0
Johnson	4	1	0
Gilvin	0	1	0
J. Compton1	1	0	1
C.Compton 3	0	0	0
Tibbs	1	0	0
Abnee	1	2	0
D. Brown	0	1	2
Sims	1	4	0
Johnson	4	1	0
G. Watkins 0	1	1	0
K. Watkins	2	0	0
McGlothlin	1	0	0
Caswell	0	1	0
Hamon	0	1	0

Summary

Catagory	NC	EC
Rushes	44-195	22-26
Passing	16-10-0-1	10-2-3-14
KO Ret.	1-16	4-21
Punt Ret.	1-2	2-18
Fum. Rec.	1-0	1-0
Punts	2-31	5-27

Scoring Summary

Team	1	2	3	4	TOT
NC	0	14	6	7	27
EC	0	0	0	0	0

NC- J. Farah'22 yd pass from Daniel Brown run failed
NC - Shawn Bussell 3 yd run (R. Brown pass from D. Brown, 2 pts)
NC- R. Brown 1yard run (pass failed)
NC - Daniel Brown 37 yd. interception return (Bussell kick)

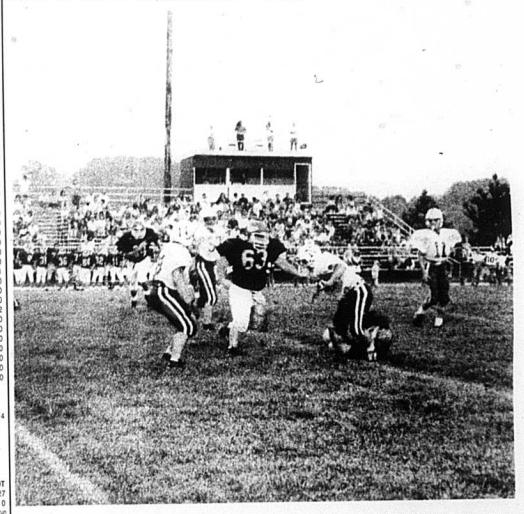
Little League plans signups September 9

Nicholas County Little League Basketball tryouts wil be held at Nicholas County Elementary, September 9, at 2 p.m.

Registration is set for 1:30 p.m.

The program is open to grades two through six. Players cannot be 13 before March 1, 1991 and must be present at tryouts to be eligible for league participation.

For additional information call Jim Galbraith, 289-2107 or Stephanie Duncan, 289-7518.



The Carlisle Mercury/Tim Jones Photo
Nicholas County's Raymond Brown rushed for 112 yards on 21 carries, including a one yard carry for a touchdown as Nicholas County defeated East Carter 27-0, in Grayson last Friday night. Brown also pulled in one pass for three yards to help the Bluejackets even their mark at 1-1.