

## Lady Jackets hold to on post 63-48 win

By Josh Shepherd  
For The Carlisle Mercury

### SPORTS EXTRA

CYNTHIANA — The Harrison County Fillies gave the Nicholas County Lady Jackets an unexpected close game throughout the first half in Cynthiana Monday night, but the Lady Jackets held on to win, 63-48.

The Jackets jumped to an early, 7-1 lead at the 5:50 mark of the first quarter as Tacy Earlywine aided the Jackets advantage with a 3-point play.

However, the Fillies turned on the heat as they ran up the scoreboard to cut the Jackets' lead to three in three minutes of play. As senior Chris Auxier logged her second foul, Carmen Thornton's foul shots brought the Fillies within two of tying the lead, 11-9.

The Jackets pushed themselves back up to a 4-point lead with Earlywine and Kristi Barton shooting foul shots within 15 seconds of each other.

But it was a short-lived advantage as the Fillies' Helen Winkle fired in a jumper to trail by one, 14-13, going into the final minute of first quarter play.

The Lady Jackets pulled themselves back to a 4-point advantage by quarter's end, 17-13.

The Fillies remained at a 2-point deficit as both teams matched each other shot for shot until Winkle again cut the Jackets lead to one, 24-23, with 2:55 remaining in the half.

Ethababeth Schandling brought the Lady Jackets out to a 3-point lead as she rebound Barton's free throw and passed the ball back through the net for a 26-23 advantage with 1:52 remaining.

With 48 seconds left in the half, Nikki Smoot hit twice from the foul line for a 28-23 lead at the half.

However, the Lady Jackets came back in the third with Smoot grabbing two points from left of the key and then retreating down court to dump the ball to Kim Denkins for the layup.

Hutton brought the Lady Jackets to 37-27, their biggest lead of the evening and clung to the lead until Cathy Barnes seared the net

with a 3-point jumper at 4:03 for a 39-32 score. Smoot logged fouls three and four within seconds of each other, but the score did not change for nearly a minute and a half until Denkins bombed the goal with 1:33.

As the half ended, Harrison scored one more and Earlywine sank two foul shots for a 43-34 score.

Smoot logged her fifth foul at 5:02. Schandling, replacing Smoot, made a steal and passed off the ball to Earlywine for the score to up the Jackets lead by 19 points, 53-40.

Nicholas Head Coach Barbara Kenney said the girls have performed better on the court, but despite shooting problems in the first quarter, the girls managed to turn the game around in the second half.

"I was very worried when Nikki fouled out, because our shooting was not very good and I felt the Fillies may have had the chance to catch up," Kenney said. Kenney said shooting improved inside and that helped Nicholas County take the win. Denkins brought in 20 points for the Lady Jackets and 15 rebounds. Earlywine had 15 points and Hutton came in with 12.

## Personal bests highlight Nicholas win

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Several personal bests were set in the Nicholas County Lady Jacket's 82-28 defeat of the Menifee County Lady Cats Feb. 5.

The Lady Cats, going into the game missing several starters including top scorer Melanie Young, who had a sprained ankle, fell behind quickly in the first quarter, 12-4, at the 3:14 mark in the game.

However, spurred on by five fouls committed by the Lady Jackets, Menifee moved to a 6-point trail, 16-10, by first quarter's end.

Christy Hutton's 3-point shot attempt at the beginning of the second quarter missed, but Kim Denkins, under the basket, rebounded the ball, missed once, rebounded again, and bucketed the shot.

The Lady Jackets jammed in another 20 points before Menifee scored one foul shot to break the stall. By the half, the Lady Jackets had all but sewn up the game, 43-14.

Menifee's Billie Day fired in a shot at the 5:28 mark of the third for a score of 49-18.

As the score reached 50-16, the Lady Jackets went on a scoring rail with every player on the starting team blasting down court for a shot.

In order, Hutton, Smoot, Tacy Earlywine, Chris Auxier and Denkins all hit shots in 2 1/2 minutes.

With a last second shot from Kristi Barton, the Jackets led 70-16 at the end of the third.

However, for a full minute in the fourth quarter, Menifee scored three times against Lady Jackets substitutes, but Amy Simons, Andrea Galbraith, and Renee Linville jammed in shots to end

the game. Denkins set a new rebounding record with 27. She also netted 26 points in the game.

Auxier, for the first time in her career as a Lady Jacket, scored in double figures with 11.

As a team, Nicholas County stole the ball 32 times and had 59 rebounds.



SPORTS EXTRA/Josh Shepherd  
Andrea Galbraith stretches for the rebound in the Lady Jackets game against the Menifee County Lady Cats Monday night. The Jackets took the game easily, 82-28.

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