

Jessamine lives up to ranking stops NCHS girls

By Josh Shepherd
For The Carlisle Mercury

SPORTS EXTRA
Bolstered by strong outside shooting, the Jessamine County Lady Colts gave the Nicholas County Lady Jackets their biggest defeat of the season, 67-46.

The Lady Jackets got off to a slow start in the first half, Nikki Smoot scoring most among the Jackets with four points in the first quarter and nine points in the second.

Jessamine succeeded in shutting down most of the Lady Jackets' inside game, holding Kim Denkins to one point in the entire first half.

Meanwhile, Tracy Liptrap sent Jessamine off with three 3-point shots throughout the first quarter, and Crystal Teater added a 3-point play. Teater advanced Jessamine further with a total of 10 points in the second quarter.

Besides Smoot's scoring in the second, only one other Jacket, Chrisa Auxier, managed to score with two points to their record.

Beating Nicholas 18-9 in the first and 19-11 in the second, Jessamine enjoyed a 17-point lead going into halftime, 37-20.

However, as the Lady Jackets took the court in the second half they immediately set out to regain control of the game.

Though Tracy Earlywine managed but one point, Christy Hutton, held to scoring on foul shots in the first half, rallied with three 2-pointers throughout the third.

Smoot went far outside to land a 3-pointer, and Denkins brought in five points off one shot and a 3-point play.

Three-point plays, however, did not fall so easily to the Jessamine County side as the team missed two opportunities with Teater and Nicole Frye, though still hammering in six points.

Liptrap, no volatile in the first half, was held to one point from the free-throw line.

But the gains on the scoreboard were not enough to carry the Jackets momentum into the fourth quarter as Smoot, with six points, Hutton and Denkins scored the

Lady Jackets only points in the fourth.
Jessamine's Jennifer Slugantz hit a 3-pointer and a jumper to add five to Jessamine's tally.
Scoring for Nicholas had Smoot with 22 points, Hutton with

10, and Denkins with nine.
Head Coach Barbara Kenney said the slow start in the opening caused most of Nicholas' problems in the game.
The Lady Jackets turned around in the second and gave the

top-10 ranked Jessamine County some problems.
"There is no question why they are in the top 10, they are fast and they have outside shooting we lack because of our age and size," Kenney said.

Augusta falls to Lady Jackets, 72-51

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SPORTS EXTRA
AUGUSTA, Feb. 12 — Though dropping to a 4-point deficit early, the Nicholas County Lady Jackets defeated the Augusta Lady Panthers, 72-51.

By 5:30, the starting team of the Lady Jackets fell to an 8-4 deficit,

which prompted Head Coach Barbara Kenney to substitute all her starting team.

Through the second team, the Jackets took control of the boards to tie the Lady Panthers, 17-17, at the end of the first quarter.

Kim Denkins brought in seven points, among them a 3-point play. Tracy Earlywine brought in

four and Elizabeth Schanding scored five points.

Nicholas took control of the boards in the second half as the first team improved its shooting and began to take the Panthers out of contention for a halftime lead.

Denkins made nine of the Lady Jackets' 16 total points in the quarter. Nikki Smoot garnered four points in the quarter off a shot and one set of foul shots.

Augusta had two 3-point play opportunities and made one. Lisa Lucas brought in four points for Augusta.

However, a dispute arose between Augusta's coach and a referee on a last second Jacket's score, which prompted a technical foul against Augusta at the opening of the third quarter.

The Lady Jackets' shooting improved considerably in the second half.

Earlywine fired in shots for seven points in the game, but Christy Hutton, coming off only one point in the first half, gunned in four 2-point shots for eight points in the third. Denkins and Chrisa Auxier slammed in four points apiece to give the Jackets a commanding 56-41 lead despite two 3-point shots from Augusta.

Denkins matched Hutton's run on the boards with four 2-pointers in the fourth, while Schanding and Smoot managed to put in two each and Earlywine came up with four points.

The Lady Panthers early moments failed to carry them through the entire game as most of their scoring came from six sets of foul shots.

Denkins led with 28 points, 23 rebounds and five blocked shots. Earlywine hit for 17 points, and Hutton came up with nine points.



SPORTS EXTRA—Nikki Smoot drives around one Lady Pirate in a sprint for two points as the Lady Jackets, despite scoring a last second 3-pointer, were edged by Berna, 53-52.

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115 Locust St.
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289-2492