

Boy's Basketball Schedule UPDATE
 Jan. 3 NCHS at Mt. Olivet-Deming
 Jan. 3 NCHS GIRLS @ Paris
 Jan. 5 Rockcastle Girls at NCHS 6:30
 Jan. 5 Boys Owen Co. at NCHS Homecoming
 Jan. 8 Boys Mason County at NCHS
 Jan. 9 Boys Menifee at NCHS
 Jan. 17 (MAKEUP) Boys Pendleton at NCHS

Bath uses late rally to down Bluejackets

By Jeff Spurling - For The Castles Mercury

SPORTS EXTRA
 MT. STERLING -- Nicholas County lost 72-61 to Bath County in first round action of the Col. Ford Christmas Classic December 28.

Although Nicholas led the entire first half, the Jackets could not repeat their performance in the second half.

The Jackets were led by Daniel Brown, who dished in 23 points. Brian Hilarider scored 14 and David Sparks was also in double figures with 10.

Nicholas County took a 4-0 lead on two straight buckets by David Sparks.

Bath got its first score of the game on a bucket by Darrio Jones at the 6-minute mark.

A field goal by Travis Sims and a 3-pointer by Brown gave the Jackets a 9-3 lead at the 4-minute mark.

Nicholas built a 12-4 lead on a 3-point shot by Brown on the 2:20 mark, and went ahead 18-6 when Brown hit another three pointer.

Bath scored at the buzzer on a rebound jumper by Mike Leigh to round out the first quarter scoring at 18-8.

The Wildcats scored five unanswered points to open the second half, cutting Nicholas' lead to 18-13 before Brown broke the ice with a bucket at the 6:15 mark.

Leigh hit two free throws for Bath with 5:12 remaining in the half to cut Nicholas' lead to 23-15.

The Jackets went ahead by 11 when Damon Reed hit a field goal with four minutes remaining.

Brown scored a 3-pointer to make it 29-19 before the Wildcats began cutting into the Jackets lead.

Leigh hit both ends of a one-plus-one to cut Nicholas' lead to 29-21. Reed got a field goal with one minute left to make it 31-28.

Jones scored the next four points to make the score 33-31, with Nicholas at the half.

Bath County tied the score at 33 all at the 7-minute mark in the second period, and took its first lead 35-33 with 6:23 remaining.

Nicholas pulled within one point at 38-37, but Bath moved away on buckets by Leigh and Reed, to take a 42-37 lead.

Reed shooting by Brown, who converted on two 3-pointers, kept the score close.

Brown hit a 3 pointer to make the score 42-40 Bath, and later hit on another 3-pointer to make it 45-43.

However, David Vinson and Reed answered with a 3 pointer and a field goal, respectively to give Bath its largest lead of the quarter at 50-43.

Nicholas closed to within three at 50-47 on a field goal by Sparks as the quarter ended.

The score remained close in the first minutes of the final quarter with the score tied at 50-51, and 52 apiece.

Bath took the lead for good when Leigh hit a short jump shot to make it 55-53.

Bath pulled ahead 57-52 on a Reed field goal, but Hilarider answered with a layup to make it 57-55.

Bath pulled away with about 3:14 to go, scoring four unanswered points.

Hilarider hit another 3 pointer to make it 61-58, but Bath out scored Nicholas 11-3 in the closing minutes and came away with the 72-61 victory.

NCHS Sparks, 10; Hilarider, 14; Sims, 9; Brown, 23; Willis, 3; Morris, 2.

Bath: Reed, 26; Leigh, 18; Jones, 14; Vinson, 13; Lykins, 1.

NCHS 18 15 14 14 - 6

Bath 8 23 19 22 - 72



SPORTS EXTRA/Jeff Spurling Photo

Nicholas County's Brian Hilarider looks for some help against a tough Bath County defense in the Col. Ford Christmas Classic played at Montgomery County High School, last week. Nicholas County jumped out to an early lead, but fell to the Wildcats 72-61 in the first round of the tournament. Daniel Brown led Nicholas County with 23 points, while Hilarider added 14. David Sparks rounded out double figure scoring for the Jackets with 10.

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