

## Kenney's team has youth and experience

... but coach warns fans: Tough schedule ahead

By Tim Jones  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

**CARLISLE** — The Nicholas County Lady Bluejackets return several players from last year's regional finalists.

The 89-90 version of the Lady Blue Jackets finished 24-7 and coach Barbara Kenney said the team could be better this year.

"We could be a better team this year and not win as many games," Kenney said.

Kenney felt the tougher schedule Nicholas County faces may take its toll on the win-loss record.

"The schedule is a lot tougher this year than it has been in the past," Kenney said.

Kenney noted the Louisville Male tournament would be a big test for Nicholas County.

"Some of the best teams in the state are in this tournament," Kenney stated.

Kenney noted Henry Clay, last year's state champion, and Louisville Southern, a team consistently ranked in the top five

year after year, would be in the tournament.

The regular season schedule also promises to be tougher for the Lady Blue Jackets.

"We play Montgomery County, Bracken County and Paris. All these teams are probably among the best five in the region," the coach stated.

Later in the year, Bryan Station comes in from Lexington to play Nicholas County.

"We would like to have big crowd for this game," Kenney said.

"Actually," Kenney continued, "we would like to have a big crowd for every game. The kids like to play in front of a crowd and the big crowd took us a long way in the regional last year."

Kenney added that her squad was fun to watch.

"These kids aren't boring to watch," the coach said.

"I've watched some girls teams that are boring but we play well. We pass the ball the well and move

up and down the court," she added. Kenney's team is a young one, however. The starting line-up consists of one freshman, two sophomores and two juniors.

What they lack in experience the team hopes to make up for with ball-ance.

In a scrimmage against Pendleton County last week, freshman Kim Denkins had 16 points and 16 rebounds, Kenney said. Three other Blue Jackets also scored in double figures.

Denkins, a 6-3 freshman, start at center for Nicholas County.

Kenney said the freshman had improved in every phase of the game. "She's got good stamina and can overpower people with strength and determination," Kenney added.

One forward will be Tacy Earlywine, a 5-9 junior. Earlywine led the team in scoring last year and moves well without the ball, the coach said. She is also a strong rebounder and excellent ballhandler who can help break op-

position presses, the coach said.

The other forward spot is up for grabs. The front-runner was Kristi Barton, a 5-4 player who has strength and quickness, according to the coach.

Kenney expects other players to compete for this position. Renee Linville, Elizabeth Shandling, Andrea Galbraith and Amy Simons are all expected to play the forward slot for the Lady Blue Jackets.

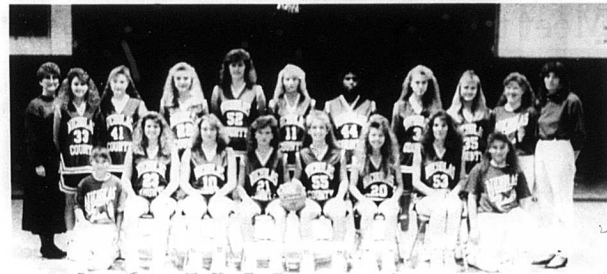
Two sophomores own the guard positions.

Christie Hutton, at 5-9, 130 pounds, plays the point for Kenney. "She's an excellent ballhandler for her size. She has good court awareness, sees the court well and can pass over the top of people," Kenney noted.

The other guard is sophomore Nikki Simot.

Kenney called Simot "very aggressive" and said the 5-5 guard works as hard as any player she's ever had.

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Pictured above is the Nicholas County High School Lady Bluejackets. Players are from left to right on the bottom row, trainer Kithy Schanding, Andrea Galbraith, Tina Fryman, Nikki Simot, Kristi Barton, Elizabeth Schanding, Amy Simons and trainer Tracy Fryman. On the back row from left to right are head coach Barbara Kenney, Jennifer Willoughby, Tawna Livingood, Christie Hutton, Kim Denkins, Renee Linville, Jennifer Johnson, Tacy Earlywine, Alicia Sibert, trainer Jennifer Gilvin and assistant Penny Bretz.

Good Luck Nicholas County Bluejackets and Lady Bluejackets



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