

Lady Jackets

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Nicholas County was paced by Tacy Earlywine's 16 points. Kim Denkins came away with 13 and Nikki Smoot chipped in 12 to round out the scoring in double figures. Tacy Earlywine was selected to the all-tournament team and Kristi Barton was selected to the All-10th Region Academic Team in a ceremony at tournament's end.

Game 19
Nicholas County 46
at Harrison County 33
CYNTHIANA — The Lady Jackets came out flat against the Lady Filles, and relied on Elizabeth Schanding's 10 points and defense to come away with the win. The Filles took advantage of early Nicholas County foul trouble to keep the game close until Schanding started a 5-1 run at the end of the game with a layup. Tacy Earlywine led the Jackets with 16 points. Also scoring in double figures were Kim Denkins, with 13, and Schanding. The win was the Lady Jackets' 16th of the season in 19 tries.

Game 20
Nicholas County 77
at Merrillie County 42
FRENCHBURG — Nikki Smoot scored 13 third quarter points to break open a close race. Menties failed by only four, 29-25, at the half. The Jackets came out of the break pressing, and the offense really came alive. Smoot led the Jackets with 23 points and Kim Denkins produced 17 points as well as 10 rebounds. Tacy Earlywine also finished in double figures with 12.

Game 21
Nicholas County 54
at Fleming County 24
FLEMINGSBURG — The Lady Bluejackets exploited for a girls' record at NCHS for 94 points in hammering the Lady Panthers. Nicholas County rolled out to a 50-10 lead at the half, and the Panthers were never taken seriously. The Jackets came away with 21 steals as well as 20 points by Tacy Earlywine and Nikki Smoot. Kim Denkins finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds while Christie Hutton came away with 13 points. Six other players scored for Nicholas County in the game in rolling to the biggest win of the season.

Game 22
Bryan Station 60
at Nicholas County 56
CARLISLE — The Lady Jackets' relay foul spot against Leavon powerhouse Bryan Station despite Tacy Earlywine's career 1,000th point. Earlywine scored the last basket of the first half to reach the playoffs, but the Jackets trailed 30-14. Kim Denkins picked up her third foul early in the second quarter, and the Delandens were able to hold on to the early advantage. Denkins, despite limited play, led the Jackets with 23 points. Tacy Earlywine was the only other Bluejacket to reach double figures with 12.

Game 23
Augusta 35
at Nicholas County 68
CARLISLE — The Lady Jackets rolled all over the Lady Panthers and got back on the winning track with win number 19 on the season. Augusta failed 7-9 and Nicholas County never let up. The Lady Panthers would never threaten. Four Nicholas County players came away with double figures. Nikki Smoot had a game-high 17 points while Tacy Earlywine and Elizabeth Schanding came away with 12 points each. Christie Hutton hit for 10 points. Kim Denkins was held to only nine points but grabbed the boards for 17 rebounds and knocked down seven 3's.

Game 24
Jasparville County 39
at Nicholas County 51
CARLISLE — The Lady Jackets blew by the Lady Colts for a 7-0 lead and sat in the key to the 20th win for the second straight season. The Lady Colts could not keep up the defensive pressure as Nikki Smoot and Elizabeth Schanding combined for 33 backcourt points. Coach Kenney said it was a bigger feel to reach the 20 win mark this season than it was last year. "A lot of people don't realize that we had a much tougher schedule this season. We played well in the Louisville tournament, against Bryan Station, Bourbon, Bath, Montgomery, and Bracken. We're playing very well when you consider that we start two sophomores, two freshmen, and a junior. We don't have a single over 16 years old and our beating girls with three and four years more experience."

Game 25
Nicholas County 45
at Berea 56
BEREA — The Lady Jackets came in riddled with injuries and illness and limped out with an 11 point loss to Berea. Coach Barbara Kenney and starting forward Kristi Barton were out of the game.

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Kenney's comments on the season
— Since we got beat early in the districts, a lot of people might forget about the great season our girls played.

"Last year, we didn't have any pressure on us because no one expected us to win. This year, people tended to forget we were a very young team and 21 wins is a good accomplishment. I believe we played a very hard schedule this season, and we played very well against good teams."

"We had some breakdowns at the end of the season, but we had our chances."

"Next year may be even tougher because a lot of teams don't want to play us anymore. I don't know if we'll win 20 or not, but we should be improved because the girls are starting to come together. Paris, Bracken, Clark, and Montgomery all lose the heart of their team, and we'll be intact."

"It was a good season, and I'm glad we had a lot of fan support."



Nicholas County's Kim Denkins drives to the basket against Bracken County.

Five other Bluejackets were slowed by illness and the offense could not get on track. Kim Denkins, with 16 points, came away with the high scoring honors. Tacy Earlywine also finished in double figures with 10 points.

Game 26
Saint Patrick 32
at Nicholas County 91
CARLISLE — In their regular season finale, the Lady Jackets topped the Lady Saints in a game dedicated to Amy Simons, the lone senior on the Lady Jackets' squad. Came away with a season-high 11 points in front of a packed gym. Nicholas County held a commanding 25-7 lead after one quarter of play, and Assistant Coach Penny Breez, fling in for an ailing Barbara Kenney, went to her bench the rest of the way. Besides Simons, five other Nicholas County players finished with double figures. Tacy Earlywine led the Bluejackets with 20 points. Christie Hutton had 12 points, Kim Denkins came away with 11, and Nikki Smoot and Elizabeth Schanding finished with 10 each.

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