

### In 37th District Opener Twice beaten Bourbon County hands Lady Jackets 52-45 loss

By Hank Bond  
OF THE Carlisle Mercury Staff  
PARIS — It was a game of contrasts, but when it was all over Bourbon County had another two regular season losses to Nicholas County as taking a 52-45 win in the opening round of the 37th District tournament.

Bourbon County led for most of the first half, with only a 7-6 Nicholas County basket free throw by Kim Dickens with 2:06 to play in the first quarter stopping complete control for the Lady Jackets.

Dickens brought Nicholas within 10 from a layup from the left side with 1:04 to play, but Bourbon County added two points in the final minute of the quarter to lead 15-9.

Nate Smoot brought the Lady Jackets, who finished 27-0 on the season, to within four with a free throw jumper with 6:54 to play in the second quarter, but Bourbon County scored five straight to take a 20-11 lead with 5:29 to play.

Beverly Berry carried a high three point play to tie the charge. Smoot hit three of four free throws to bring Nicholas County within six, but Bourbon County countered with an inside shot behind the Lady Jackets' defense.

Smoot added a free throw with 3:22 to play in the first half, but Bourbon County came back after a KCHS timeout to score an easy basket by Elizabeth Schaefering on an assist by Tary Early. Smoot hit two free throws, after being fouled on an inbounds shot.

With 3:01 to play until the break, Nicholas County was within three, 22-19.

Bourbon County added a bucket to lead 24-19, but had 10 back baskets by Schaefering, on an assist by Smoot, and Early were off an assist by Christie Hoffer, and Nicholas County win down by one, 24-22 with 1:17 remaining.

Bourbon County's Shannon Gilligan added a shot from under the basket for the Lady Jackets, and two Kim Dickens' free throws with 55 seconds left in the half set the halftime score at 26-25.

NCHS Coach Barbara Kinney, who has missed a couple weeks of games and practices, was on the bench for the Lady Jackets, and the second half looked to be going the right way for Nicholas County.

Hoffer hit three of four free throws to tie the score at 28-28. With 5:20 to play in the quarter, Smoot carried a three point jumper from the left side to make a 31-28, only the second lead of the night for Nicholas County.

Heather McCarty hit a jumper for Bourbon County to make it 31-26, but Dickens kept the pressure on with a three foot putback in the lane.

Earlywine scored two straight baskets for NCHS, the second with 2:53 to play in the quarter after a steal and a nifty pass from Smoot.

Dickens tipped another miss to give Nicholas County's 83.

Then the walk came tumbling down.

In the last 1:57 of the third quarter, the Lady Colonels reeled off nine straight points to reset the score at 38-29 at the third stop. The final eight minutes spelled disaster for the Lady Jackets, as Bourbon County took a 41-20 lead with 7:02 to play in the game on a McCarty tip and never looked back in posting the win.

Nicholas did close with within 41-40 on an Earlywine free throw, but when Dickens hit a shot in the lane with 2:08 to play NCHS trailed 45-42.

Over the final two plus minutes, Nicholas County would score only once on a three point basket shot with one second to play, and Bourbon County had claimed its district win.

Bourbon County advanced to play Paris, its traditional cross-town rival in the tournament final, Thursday night, at Bourbon County High School.

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### Eddie Oakley in first head coaching job New coach leads Nicholas to fine 18-8 season mark

Game One  
Nicholas County 58  
at Anderson County 54 (Overtime)  
LAURENCEBURG — NCHS Coach Ed Oakley made a successful debut with the Bluejackets' come from behind win over a tough Bearcats team.

Kevin Morris stepped to the line in the game's final seconds and sank both free throws to extend the Nicholas County lead to four.

Nicholas County, trailing 48-46, sent the game into extra play on a Daniel Brown put-back as the buzzer expired.

Morris, Travis Sims and Jarrod Wills led a tough press to keep Anderson County quiet in overtime, while Brown and Morris scored 13 points for the Bluejackets.

Game Two  
Nicholas County 87  
at Grant County 59  
DRYRIDGE — The Jackets held off a third quarter Indiana rally to coast to their second win in as many games.

Grant County pulled within six, 40-34, with five minutes left in the third period. Nicholas County Coach Oakley called time out, and the Bluejackets responded with a six point run.

The Bluejackets shut down the sluggish Grant County team, and the offense took control of the final quarter, outscoring the Indiana 22-13.

Daniel Brown scored 25 points to lead the Jackets, while Travis Sims pounded the inside for 15.

Brian Hilderer also scored in double figures with 11 points.

Game Three  
(Mt. Carmel) Darning 47  
at Nicholas County 79  
CARLISLE — The Bluejackets remained undefeated in the young season by ripping the young Darning Devils for several fast break points.

After breaking out to an 18-3 lead early in the game, the Jackets were never seriously threatened.

Janet Simons, Brian Hilderer and Travis Sims kept the Devils off the boards with a combined 25 rebounds.

Daniel Brown scored 25 points for the first straight game. Three other Bluejackets also scored in double figures. Jarrod Wills, 14, Sims, 12, and Hilderer, 12, helped pace the balanced scoring attack.

Coach Oakley said that the win was important because his players proved they would not "run wild" when they saw an open shot.

"We showed a lot of patience tonight. I'm proud of them."

Game Four  
Clark County 58  
at Nicholas County 68  
CARLISLE — The Bluejackets slammed two-time defending regional champs Clark County in front of a packed house.

The win was one of the biggest of the year for the Jackets, as Nicholas County was able to keep the mighty Cardinals off the boards and shored down the game to a snail's pace.

The game was close until the fourth quarter. Nicholas County, holding on to a 58-54 lead at the 3:00 mark, resorted to the free throw line for the win.

The Bluejackets sank ten free throws in the game's final minutes, and the tough defense held the Cardinals to a mere two baskets.

Daniel Brown led all scorers with 30 points. Brian Hilderer added 18 points, 10 rebounds, and several key steals when the going got tough.

Janet Simons also broke into double figures with 11. Coach Oakley felt the win may set the tone for the season.

"We have the talent and the desire. Maybe this win over a long time state power will give them the confidence they need to give them that extra lift."

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Good Job Jackets  
Congratulations!  
Representative  
&  
Mrs. Adrian Arnold