

New coach leads

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Game Five
Nicholas County 68
at Mason County 70
MAYSVILLE — The Jackets suffered their first loss of the year at the hands of the Royals.
The lead changed hands several times over the game, but the Jackets led the game six away in the fourth quarter.
The Royals ran out to a seven point lead halfway through the fourth quarter with precision outside shooting.
"We watched some scouting tapes on them, and they didn't look like they could shoot from outside. They burned us," said Nicholas Coach Ed Oakley.
Daniel Brown, despite being fouled by the Royals all night long, scored a game high 31 points. Brian Hlander posted away at the defense for 20 points.

Game Six
Nicholas County 70
at Pendleton County 59
FALMOUTH — The Bluejackets broke open a close game in the first quarter to breeze by the Wildcats.
Pendleton County, sporting an advantage in size and experience, worked the ball well inside the paint all night long.
Jamrod Willis was finally able to shake the press boogie in the game's final period, and Kevin Morris and Ghad Tibbs provided solid play off the bench to help lead the Jackets in the final quarter.
Daniel Brown, 22 points, and Brian Hlander, 20 points, led the Nicholas scoring attack.
Nicholas County Coach Oakley was proud of the way his team bounced back from their first loss.
"Pendleton County always plays well at home, and the boys did a good job of getting the plays executed. We had our compromise well when the game was on the line."

Game Seven
Fleming County 52
at Nicholas County 61
CARLISLE — The Jackets returned home to bang the Panthers to the victory.
The game was physical all right long, with Travis Sims and Jamie Simons being the recipients of much of the damage under the boards.
The Jackets watched the Panthers streak out to a 14-2 lead, but Jamrod Willis carried the Jackets back into the hunt.
Willis had 21 points, 15 on key three pointers.
Brian Hlander preserved the win by scoring the game's final six points, four from the charity stripe. Hlander finished the game with 14 points.
Daniel Brown also added 14, and Sims also registered in double figures with 11 points.

Game Eight
Cole Ford Christmas Classic First Round
Nicholas County 58
at Montgomery County 54

MOUNT STERLING — The Bluejackets survived a lateral rally to spoil the Indians' Christmas Tournament.
The Jackets had a 10 point lead going into the fourth quarter, but Montgomery County came roaring back.
The Jackets couldn't find a shot in the final period until the clock showed 1:02 left in the contest.
In the meantime, the Indians had cut the lead to 51-50.
The offense came alive for seven unanswered points, led by breakaway baskets by Kevin Morris and Duane Brown.
Brian Hlander led the Jackets with 20 points and Brown added 18.
Jamie Simons chipped in 11 points for the winners.
Coach Oakley said "The victory was a good one because we came in here and won against a good team. We stuck it out when we could have folded our tents."

Game Nine
Cole Ford Christmas Classic Semi-Finals
Nicholas County 56
Fleming County 46
MOUNT STERLING — The Jackets ran away from the Panthers early on and never looked back.
After Fleming County took an early 4-2 lead, the Jackets exploded for a 15-8 advantage at the end of the first period.
A strong fourth quarter by Brian Hlander quieted a would-be rally, and the Jackets cruised on to the victory.
The Panthers were kept off balance the entire game by the defensive play of Travis Sims and Jamie Simons.
Daniel Brown led the Jackets with 15 points. Hlander also reached double figures with 14.
Sims boogied the boards against a taller Fleming County team to come away with a game high nine rebounds.
Coach Oakley said the win was important because it put Nicholas County in the finals of the Cole Ford Christmas Classic.
"When you are invited to play the home team in their own tournament, that means a lot of people expect you to be a

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postover. This win helps add to the team's confidence."

Game 10
Cole Ford Christmas Championship Game
Nicholas County 75
Nicholas County 69
BOURBON COUNTY, led by junior star Corey Williams, kept the Jackets at bay from start to finish.
The loss dropped Nicholas to 8-2 on the season.
Bourbon opened the game with a 5-0 lead and never looked back. The Jackets, hampered by sluggish shooting, could not put together a serious run at the Colonels.
The game was marred by two fights involving several Nicholas County players, but the Colonels remained calm and held on for the win.
Daniel Brown led the Jackets with 21 points. Brian Hlander, 17 points, also found double figures.
Brown and Hlander were named to the Cole Ford All-Tournament team.

Game 11
Nicholas County 59
at Owen County 55
CONVENTON — The Bluejackets rebounded from the loss to come away with a close win over the Rebels.
Nicholas County appeared to be on the verge of a blow out when they jumped out to a 23-14 first quarter lead, but Owen County dumbed the pace and almost pulled out a win.
At the end of the third quarter, Brian Hlander broke a 43-43 tie with a pair of buckets.
David Elliott started another run, this time 7-0, that gave the Jackets a 57-50 lead.
The Rebels failed to capitalize on several Nicholas County turnovers in the game's final minute, and the Jackets came away with a victory.
Hlander had one of the best games of his career: 17 points, nine rebounds, six assists, three steals, and two blocked shots.

Game 12
Nicholas County 61
at Menifee County 51
FIFE NOTCH — The Bluejackets overcame the rocky Wildcat action that 10th week of the season against only two losses.
The Wildcats fought hard to stay close, but the Jackets proved to be too strong down the stretch.
Nicholas County had its hands full in the first half, owing a slim 31-26 lead at the break.
The Jackets exploded in the last stages of the game, and led by as many as 15 in the fourth quarter.
The Wildcats made a run, but fell short when Nicholas County hit six free throws.

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Nicholas County's Daniel Brown drives to the hoop, as Jamie Simons provides a pick.

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