

SPORTS

Jackets follow Hilander's 20, Brown's 18 to win

By Tim Jones

The Carlisle Mercury Staff
ST. STERLING — The Nicholas County Bluejackets survived an Indian upsurge in the fourth quarter to defeat Montgomery County, 54-54 in the first round of the Cole Ford Christmas Classic Wednesday night.

Nicholas County took a 10 point lead into the fourth quarter. The host Indiana

At Male
Denkins and Earlywine
 pace NCHS tourney

By Sandy Gibbs

The Carlisle Mercury Staff
LOUISVILLE — In spite of 33 turnovers and uninspired play the Nicholas County Lady Jackets won their opening round game 61-54 in the Louisville Male Invitational tournament.

"Sacred Heart played very aggressive defense and that along with our girls coming out flat, led to a lot of turnovers," Coach Barbara Kenney said.

The game started slowly, Kenney said, in a Friday morning phone call from Louisville Hotel.

The first quarter ended with the Lady Jackets leading by a score of 11-6. The pace speeded up in the second quarter as Nicholas expanded the lead to 21-6. At the end of the second quarter the score stood at 27-16. Nicholas over Sacred Heart.

The Lady Jackets maintained an 11 point lead through the third quarter, in spite of mounting foul trouble. Kenney said, "I had to sit Nikki Simco (who eventually fouled out) down during most of the fourth quarter, but Amy Schandling came off the bench and did a real good job for us."

Sacred Heart made a run at the Lady Jackets during the fourth quarter. "Practice outside shooting, one of the Lady Jackets few weak spots on defense this season, cut into the Nicholas lead."

"They had real good outside shooting. We knew before the game that they (Sacred Heart) were good shooters and they proved that," Kenney said.

Clutch free throw shooting by Christie Hatton who connected 9 of 10 opportunities from the charity stripe, preserved what turned out to be a one and one rebound.

Elizabeth Schandling had two points, one assist, three steals and one rebound. Amy Simms hit two free throws in a reserve role and added a rebound. Kristi Barton led the Lady Jackets in rebounding.

Continued on Page 7

came back and made the game interesting, however. Led by the hot shooting guard Steve Donihien, the Indians went on the warpath. A Donihien basket at the 6:21 mark cut the Nicholas County lead to three points and turned the game into a tense contest for both teams.

Nicholas County, which made its first basket of the fourth quarter at the 1:05 mark, was able to weather the storm.

The Bluejackets twice broke the Indian press in the last minute. One effort led to a wide open layup by Kevin Morris. The other led to a Travis Sims to the line for two free throws as well as giving the Bluejackets the ball out of bounds.

Donihien made both free throws and Brian Hilander added a free throw to give Nicholas County a record to 7-1 in the year.

Brian Hilander led the senior forward dropped in 20 points. Daniel Brown added seven points. Other Nicholas County scorers were Jarrod Willis with five and Travis Sims, four points. Shad Gibbs and Kevin Morris added two points each.

Nicholas County coach Ed Oakley felt his team controlled the first three quarters because they controlled the tempo of the game.

"We did a good job of executing although we were in a little hurry in the first half. All in all, we executed pretty well," he added.

Oakley felt Montgomery County's comeback could be traced to their zone defense.

"We haven't played against a lot of zone and kind of stood around and didn't move the ball like we did against the man to man."

Montgomery County controlled the opening tip. The Indiana Jason McDonald converted the first shot of the game and gave Montgomery County a 9-0 lead. It was the only lead the Indians would have all night.

Both teams missed several field goal attempts over the next two minutes. Nicholas County got on the scoreboard

after Brian Hilander drove the late and put in a five foot jumper to knot the count 2-2 with 5:42 left in the first quarter.

The Hilander basket was all the Bluejackets needed to get untracked. Daniel Brown made a layup off a fast break. Brown then stole the ball and fed Jarrod Willis for an easy basket on the fast break.

Brian Hilander ended a seven point run with a three pointer to put the Bluejackets up 8-2 with 3:02 left in the first period.

Montgomery County came back with seven straight points of their own. Jason McDonald nailed a short jumper and was fouled on the play. The Indian forward missed the free throw but Steve Donihien rebounded the shot and laid the ball in to make it a 9-6 score.

Donihien nailed a three pointer on the next Montgomery trip downcourt to tie the game at nine apiece.

Daniel Brown answered for the Bluejackets. The 5-11 junior nailed a three pointer and the visitors up by three. Montgomery County sank a two point field goal and later end Brian Hilander then ended first period scoring as he buried an 18 foot jumper as

time ran out in the first stanza.

The second quarter opened with Montgomery's Donihien hitting a short jumper to pull the home squad within one point. Daniel Brown hit another three made a layup off a fast break.

Brian Hilander found Travis Sims with a nice pass to give the Bluejackets a six point cushion.

Nicholas County kept the lead throughout the second quarter. Easy Montgomery move was met by a Nicholas basket.

Montgomery County rallied in the fourth quarter. The Indian comeback was helped by the Bluejackets inability to score. Nicholas County scored only seven points in the period, all of these coming in the last 1:05 of the game.

The Indians did not shoot much better either. After the early fourth period subside by Donihien the score remained 51-48 for over three minutes. The game was also 51-50 for over two minutes.

"We dodged some bullets," Oakley said in reference to several field goals the Indians missed in the late stages of the game.

"We hung in there and battled back though," Oakley noted, "when we could have folded our tents."

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Kenney said that though she hadn't scored Assumption she expected to tell her girls that they are a good team and they just needed to play up to their ability.

Kenney also pointed out the Louisville Male tourney is one of the most prestigious holiday tournaments in the state, featuring defending state champion Henry Clay.

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Kenney said the level of competition was quite high. "I'm real happy to come up here and win. We're not as strong as I would like us to be, because of our youth and

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plex in 1988. Their Florida home games are played in 6,700-seat Plant City Stadium.

The Reds open their 1991 National League season in Cincinnati, playing the Houston Astros on April 8.

Here is the Reds' spring training schedule:
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Clearwater; March 13 - Kansas City; March 14 - New York Mets at Port St. Louis; March 15 - St. Louis; March 16 - Kansas City at Baseball City; March 17 - Boston at Winter Haven; March 18 - Los Angeles; March 19 - Montreal; March 20 - Kansas City at Baseball City; March 21 - White Sox at Sarasota.

March 22 - Split squad Detroit at Plant City, and Kansas City at Baseball City; March 23 - Philadelphia; March 24 - Mets at Port St. Louis; March 25 - Open Date; March 26 - Boston; March 27 - Boston at Winter Haven; March 28 - Montreal; March 29 - Philadelphia; March 30 - Houston at Kissimmee; March 31 - Detroit; April 1 - Los Angeles at Vero Beach; April 2 - Boston; April 3 - Detroit at Lakeland; April 4 - Houston; April 5 - Detroit at Lakeland; April 6 and 7 - To be announced.

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