THE CARLISLE MERCURY SPORTS

Jackets end losing streak with visit to Southern

By Maynard L. Almjeld
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

BEREA - Behind at half-time by nine points, the Nicholas County Bluejackets scored nine points in overtime to win 65-62 over Madison Southern High School in Berea Friday night.

A see-saw first quarter ended with Nicholas County on the short end of a 14-13 score. David Short and Shad Tibbs, two Bluejackets seniors who seldom start, were on the hardwood as the quarter began.

Jarrod Wills committed Nicholas County's seventh team foul as the second quarter began sending Madison Southern's John Palmisano to the line.

Palmisano sank both charity shots to put the Eagles up by three. Wills countered with a three pointer at 6:30 to knot the score at 16.

Southern's Clay Marcum, who was the target of a special Bluejackets' defence, hit his seethed three-pointer of the night to put the Eagles back up 19-16. Bluejackets center, Jamie Simons, was whistled for a foul with 5:17 to play before halftime.

Marcum sank both free throws to increase Southern's lead to five at 21-16.

Both teams missed three-point attempts before Nicholas County's Brian Hilander connected from 15 feet to bring the Bluejackets back to 21-18 with 4:27 left. Southern's Aaron Allnut, responded with a three of his own seconds later to increase the Eagles' lead to 24-18.

After Southern's Marcum missed a trey, Nicholas County's Simons picked up a rebounding foul against Southern's 6-foot-8 center, Curtis Elliot. Elliot connected on both shots from the charity stripe bringing the Eagles' lead to 26-18 with 3:20 left before halftime.

Referees took a basket away from Nicholas County's Wills calling him for steps, and after the exchange of possession Simons picked up his second foul sending Elliot back to the line.

Elliot connected on one of two increasing Southern's lead to 27-18 with 2:50 remaining.

After a two-minute drought, Nicholas County got back on the board as Wills picked up his seventh and eighth points of the half hitting from the baseline.

The Bluejackets would not score again until :06 when Hilander connected for two.

During that time frame Southern's Eagles scored on two driving layups.

Marcum created the first with some good one-on-one play and Southern's Steve Pollard blew by Jacket defenders for his first points of the half.

Halftime found Nicholas County on the short end of a 31-22 score.

A halftime performance paid big dividends, cash money, to two young Madison County fans in attendance. After foregoing the big money, a full court basket paid $100, a half-court shot was worth $50, and a three-pointer $25, the young man earned $10 with a free throw that never touched iron and a little girl collected $5 with a driving layup. The students were chosen from their ticket stub numbers.

Southern increased its lead to start the second half getting a layin from their skyscraper center, Elliot, to move in front 33-22.

Bluejackets' coach Ed Oakley's halftime lecture paid big dividends over the next three minutes as Nicholas County roared to 11 unanswered points to knot the score at 33 all with 5:05 to play in the third period.

Hilander started the explosion hitting for two from the key. He followed with a nifty pass, on the Bluejackets' next possession, to a wide-open Tibbs for an easy two.

Daniel Brown went to work next getting himself open for a three that found nothing but net.

Southern's coach, Tony Cox, tried to stop the slide in momentum calling a timeout at 5:48 with Southern leading 33-29. His strategy failed however, when, after a change in possession, Brown blew by his starting five for an easy two on an uncontested lay-up.

Nicholas County tied the score seconds later on a steal and assist by Hilander to an open Brown for two more.

Madison Southern finally scored again with 4:40 left in the period as Elliot worked himself free for a layin.

Two harmless fouls by Nicholas County's Brown and Wills kept Southern's scoring machine off balance until Wills could knot the score again at 3:10 with a pair of free throws.

Southern's Eagles finally got back into the scoring column at 2:51 of the third period on a basket by Palmisano to take a 37-35 lead. Nichols' Brown knotted the score on the next possession with another driving lay-up.

The Eagles' Palmisano stayed hot hitting for two to make the score 39-37 Southern.Then with 1:24 left in the period, Sims scored off a nifty assist by Wills to bring the Bluejackets even.

With 23 seconds left in the third period, Sibert returned the lead to Nicholas County hitting for two.

Madison Southern drew even, early in the forth period, on a well executed length-of-the-floor pass to a streaking Marcum for a layup. Then after a series of botched attempts by both teams, Southern's Eagles took a 42-41 lead on a free throw by Elliot. The foul was called on the Bluejackets Wills, his fourth of the game.

After Elliot missed two "gimmes" for Southern, Hilander worked loose for a layup giving Nicholas County a 43-42 lead with 5:03 remaining in the game.

The Bluejackets extended their lead to 45-42 seconds later on a basket by Sibert off a Brown assist. The Eagles drew to within one on their next possession as Elliot scored on a goal tending call against Nicholas County.

With 4:02 left in the game, the Bluejackets returned their lead to three points on a quick-hitting inbounds basket by Hilander.

Southern's Marcum knotted the score at 47 with his third three pointer of the night, and after a foul called on Nicholas County's Hilander. Allnut sank both charity shots for a 49-47 Madison Southern lead with 3:10 remaining. Hilander brought the Bluejackets back to even with a layin at 2:52.

Kevin Wildman scored his first point of the night for Southern with 2:15 left in the game on a free throw after a foul by Nicholas County's Brown.

The lead was short lived however, as the Bluejackets' Brown found Hilander open underneath for a quick basket to put Nicholas County ahead 51-50 at the 1:52 mark. Scott Moberly scored his second basket of the night for Southern's Eagles with a minute and a half remaining to retake a 52-51 advantage.

Brown tied the score with a free throw after a Wildman foul and gave Nicholas County a lead of 54-52 with a basket at 0:31.

Moberly scored again with 23 seconds remaining to pull Southern even at 54 all.

Marcum covered the Bluejackets' Brown a little too tightly sending the Nicholas County guard to the line where he converted both charity tosses for a 56-54 lead with 17 seconds to play.

A Southern timeout was followed by an Eagles' turnover and foul but Nicholas County was unable to expand it's lead as Hilander missed both free throws with nine seconds left.

With one second left in regulation, Wildman rebounded one of his teammate's desperation shots and put the rebound back up and in to bring Southern even at 56.

After a timeout, Nicholas County tried a half court shot that fell short as time expired in regulation.

Madison Southern took an early lead in overtime as Moberly converted one of two charity tosses after a Hilander foul.

Simons gave Nicholas County its first lead in overtime with a basket at the 2:00 mark. Hilander followed with a layin off an assist by Brown to put the Bluejackets up 60-57.

Then after a change in possession, Moberly fouled Brown who calmly sank both free throws for a 62-57 Nicholas County lead.

The foul which happened with 51 seconds to play in overtime was Moberly's fifth sending him to the bench.

Southern's Marcum rallied his team with a three-point basket at 0:41 to bring Southern to within two at 62-60.

A Southern timeout settled little as the Eagles' Allnut fouled Brown with 37 seconds to play in overtime.

Brown made one of two from the charity stripe and Allnut went to the bench with his fifth foul.

Nicholas County could have increased it's 65-60 lead with 15 seconds to play but Sims missed both of his charity tosses after being fouled by Elliot.

Madison Southern pulled to within three, 65-62, with seven seconds remaining on a basket by Darrin Day and had a chance to tie the score after the Bluejackets' Tibbs missed his two free throw attempts.

Nicholas County double teamed Southern's Day and forced a turnover.

Hilander finished the overtime period with two more missed charity tosses for Nicholas County but the Bluejackets hung on to win 65-62.

After the game, Coach Oakley said, "I know you won't believe this but we're a good free throw shooting team".

When asked about his half-time comments, Oakley said, "We take pride in our team defence and boxing out on the boards, but we didn't do either of those things in the first half.

"I just gently reminded them of that."

About the new starting line-up against Madison Southern Oakley said, "I needed to motivate some people after those three losses in a row, and the new lineup was supposed to do that. But, here I was yelling at the referees and jumping up and down, and instead of driving to the basket my team's out there throwing up 15 three pointers in the first half alone.

"Let's just say we played better in the second half", Oakley added.

Madison Southern's Coach Tony Cox watched his team's record fall to 12 and 8 on the season.

About the game Cox said, "I feel like we got out hustled, out executed, and out coached. We just didn't get any ball movement against their matchup zone." Cox added, "This team has had some big victories against really good teams but we've lost five games now by five points or less and that really hurts.

"Curtis Elliot is just not using his size as well as he could," Cox said.

"Our team seems like it plays well in spurts...tonight just wasn't one of them."

The Carlisle Mercury/William R. Million Photo

Tacy Earlywine looks for a basket inside against Paris in the All-A 10th Region semi-finals. Earlywine led Nicholas, but the Greyhounds held on to post a 52-48 win.

Schanding leads run to pace Nicholas

By William R. Million
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CYNTHIANA — Elizabeth Schanding started a 5-0 run in the game's final minute with a steal and a driving layup as the Nicholas County Lady Jackets overcame the pesky Harrison County Fillies 46-39, Monday night.

Schanding was awarded a rare starting role, as several Lady Jackets players were suffering from the flu, and answered by scoring 10 points and pacing a tough Nicholas County press.

The Lady Jackets were bothered with shooting problems all night long, and started the game a dismal 0-9 from the floor.

Harrison County started the scoring with a Cathy Barnes jumper at the 5:49 mark.

Nicholas County jumped out to a 4-2 lead after Tacy Earlywine drew a foul and sank the free throws.

The Fillies took it inside on the Jackets, and quickly ran up an 8-4 lead with 2:54 remaining in the period.

The Jackets were able to tie it up, 8-8, after a Schanding layup, but would fail to score the rest of the period.

Harrison County added another Barnes jump shot and Mary Muntz chipped in a free throw with nine seconds showing on the clock to end the quarter scoring, 11-8.

Nicholas County opened up the second quarter with a Nikki Smoot free throw 35 seconds into the stop, but Barnes answered with a pair of tosses of her own.

Harrison County was up 13-9.

The Bluejackets were able to start a 15-5 run when Smoot again hit one of two free throw attempts. After a Barnes three point shot, Kim Denkins went to the boards and pushed a miss back in for a score of 16-12.

Harrison County called time out with 5:12 yet to play in the second period.

After another Denkins basket and Schanding layup, Tacy Earlywine recaptured the lead for Nicholas County on a free throw.

The Lady Jackets kept pouring it on when Smoot canned another free throw and Schanding went to the skid for Harrison County when she put in a chip shot in the lane, but Nicholas County relied on an Earlywine and a Denkins layup to widen the gap, 24-18, as the half ended.

Harrison County opened up the third with a basket, but Nicholas County made a run.

Suddenly, Nicholas had rattled off nine unanswered points to jump out to a 33-20 lead with only 3:20 to go in the third.

Harrison County refused to fold, and scored six straight, including a reverse layup by Susan Murphy.

Nicholas would add a Smoot jumper with only 10 seconds left in the period to claim a 35-26 lead.

Denkins dumped in a short shot for the Jackets, but Harrison refused to quit.

After a Mary Hicks free throw and a Barnes layup and three pointer, Harrison trailed by only three, 37-34, with 5:19 still showing on the clock.

The teams traded buckets until Schanding started the final Nicholas County rally with 1:29 left, propelled the Lady Jackets to the 46-39 victory.

Besides Schanding, Tacy Earlywine had a team high 16 points, as well as several key assists in the late stages of the game. Denkins added 13 points, 10 rebounds, and five blocked shots to the effort, while Nikki Smoot pitched in eight points.

Barnes led the Fillies with a game-high 19 points and Susan Murphy added 11. Also scoring for Harrison County were Moyers with six, Muntz with three, and Mary Hicks pitched in a free throw.

Nicholas County improved to 16-3 on the year while the Harrison County squad saw its mark continue to drop, 5-15.

Nicholas Boys
Play Paris
In All - A
Thursday night
at 8 p.m. @ Paris

Barton named to academic team

By Maynard L. Almjeld
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

The 10th Region All A All Academic team was announced at the conclusion of girls' tournament play in Paris Saturday night. Each Region 10 school participating in the tournament is represented on the team by a student athlete carrying the highest grade point average.

These athletes who also excel in the classroom will be competing on a statewide level for $11,000 in scholarships given by the City of Lexington. Winners will be announced at a banquet during the All State Tournament held in Lexington the first week in February.

Representing Region 10 are Augusta's Lisa Lucas, Shawn Toy of Bath County, Bracken County's Jane Goecke, Kelly Thompson of Deming High, Nicholas County's Kristi Barton, Julie Cole of Paris, and St. Patrick's Amy Taylor.

These students have shown a particular dedication in both time and energy to achieve a prowess in both athletics and academics.

Hatton named to tourney team

By Maynard L. Almjeld
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

Selection of the Girls All A 10th Region Tournament Team was announced at the conclusion of the girls' tournament in Paris Saturday night.

The tournament, held at Southside Middle School, decided Region 10's representative in the Sectional Tournament to be held at Lexington Catholic School in Lexington, on Saturday, February 2.

The game will pit Region 10's champion, Bracken County, against the winner of the Region 9 tournament.

Covington Holy Cross captured the 9th Region championship, Saturday night, with a 42-39 win over Erlanger St. Henry.

The Region 9 tournament field is made up of Class A high schools from northern Kentucky.

Selected from tourney champion Bracken County's team were Jane Goecke, Molly Linville, and Annie Mains. Paris, tournament runner-up, was represented by Megan May and Lisa McCary. Other All-Tourney players included Bath County's Shawna Toy, Chasity Shepherd of Deming High, Nicholas County's Tacy Earlywine, Rachael Hamilton of Augusta and Cynthia Howard of Maysville Saint Patrick.

Each coach was invited to select one player from his or her tournament team for inclusion on the team. The tournament runner-up could pick two players and the tournament champion could place three squad members on the All Tournament team.

Making the presentations on behalf of Region 10 was Homer Goins, Paris High Principal.

According to tournament director Robbie Barr, tournament attendance exceeded all expectations and each participating school should receive a check for several hundred dollars from tournament receipts.

Officials for the tournament were Lisa Mattingly and C. D. Adkins. They regularly work games in the Central Kentucky Conference in Lexington.

SPORTS

Indians hold of late Jackets' rally to post win

By William Million
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

MOUNT STERLING - The Montgomery County Indians held off a late Nicholas County rally to grab a 61-56 victory last Tuesday night.

It was the third straight contest that the Bluejackets had rallied late, only to fall short in the game's closing seconds.

Montgomery County sports a record of 6-1 since losing to the Jackets in the opening round of the Cole Ford Christmas Classic.

The Indians used a big first quarter advantage to carry them through the rest of the game.

The Bluejackets hit only 3 of 13, (29%), from the floor in the opening period.

Nicholas County controlled the opening tip, but the loose ball bounced to the home-standing Tribe.

Montgomery set up a deliberate, passing attack to deceive the quicker Nicholas defenders off. The Indians scored at the 6:56 to claim the first lead, 2-0.

Montgomery County maintained the lead the entire game.

The Indians took advantage of a cold Nicholas County offense to add to the margin on a Jason McDonald layup. Nicholas was able to find the basket, however, on Brian Hilander's jump shot with 4:25 showing on the clock. The score cut the lead to 4-2.

Montgomery finally found a hole in the Jackets defense, and Senior guard Brian Holley pitched in a layup to push the Indian advantage back to four.

With 2:27 left in the quarter, Montgomery pushed up court for a score. The basket put Nicholas on the short side, 8-2.

Hilander tried to keep pace by banging the boards and dropping a putback in for two, but Montgomery's Holley answered with a long three point shot.

Nicholas was down 11-4 with 1:19 to go in the period.

Daniel Brown finally got away from his defender for his first score of the night, cutting the deficit to five.

Montgomery closed out the first on a tear, Freshman guard nailed a long three point shot, and Holley scored his seventh point of the quarter with a driving baseline shot.

The period ended with the home town Indians holding the advantage, 16-6.

Howard increased the Indian lead by nailing a three point shot from the left side.

With 7:20 to go in the first half, Brown tried to get Nicholas going with a jumper in the lane. The Jackets trailed 19-8.

Montgomery kept the ball moving. McDonald went up strong and drew a Travis Sims foul. After hitting one charity shot, Montgomery pounded the boards for the miss and the Indians completed another three point trip down court.

Meanwhile, the Bluejackets' shooting woes continued. Daniel Brown tried a three pointer and missed, and Nicholas County had gone 0-6 from the three point line.

Montgomery forward Stephen Dunintand added a jump shot off the screen and Nicholas Coach Ed Oakley called time out with his Jackets down 24-8 with 4:04 showing in the half.

The Bluejackets came out of the huddle fired up. Brown forced an Indian turnover and drove the length of the floor for the uncontested layup.

Travis Sims scored his first points on an eight foot jumper.

Montgomery took a time out of their own. Nicholas had cut the deficit to 24-12 with 4:46 to go.

After the time out, Nicholas kept pace. Brian Hilander hit a bucket to move the Jackets even closer.

McDonald added a free throw for the home club. The Indians were up 25-14 with four minutes in the half.

Jarrod Wills contributed to the rally by drawing the foul and canning both free throws.

The two teams would trade scores for the rest of the first half. Montgomery's Dunintand added a fall away shot at the 2:42 mark and the Indians went up 27-16.

Brown again beat the Indian press by drilling a shot on the baseline for the Jackets.

Dexter Clemens returned the favor by dribbling all the way and laying the ball in at the 1:01 mark.

After a Travis Sims bucket in the paint, Montgomery finished the first half scoring with a layup.

Nicholas went into the break down by 11, 31-20.

Nicholas County began to inch closer at the outset of the third period. Brian Hilander drilled a three pointer off the dribble to make the score 31-23.

Montgomery went to Clemens to make the jump shot, but Daniel Brown hit his first three pointer of the game. Nicholas had closed the gap to seven with 7:01 left in the period.

Montgomery went on a small run of their own that started with another Clemens score. Holley drilled a three pointer, and Clemens went to the boards for the follow up. Nicholas' Oakley called for time out with his team trailing Montgomery by a score of 40-28.

Nicholas went to the floor and answered the Indians with a 9-0 run of their own.

At the 5:11 point, Brown hit a long jumper for the basket. This was followed by a strong Travis Sims layup to make the score 40-30, in favor of the Indians.

After a Montgomery County charging foul, Daniel Brown lit up the basket with another long-distance shot. Nicholas now trailed 40-33 with 3:47 left in the quarter.

After the two teams traded turnovers, Brian Hilander's jumper prompted another Montgomery County time out with the Indians up 40-35 and the clock showing 2:36 in the period.

Montgomery County found the three point shot themselves when Holley drilled a long one at the 1:52 stop.

Nicholas County held the Indian offense in check through the rest of the quarter. Sims added a short jumper and Brown sqeeked by the defense for an off balance baseline shot.

Nicholas ended the third down by just four points, 43-39.

Clemens opened the game's final period with a driving layup to put Montgomery ahead 45-39, but at the 6:38 mark, Brown responded for Nicholas County by drilling the short jumper.

McDonald added a pair of free throws for the Indians , and Dunintand added a layup. Nicholas was trailing 49-41 with 5:30 left in the game.

Hilander again led a Nicholas charge by canning a three point shot. Travis Sims added a 15 foot jumper at the 4:09 mark that tightened the score to 49-46.

Montgomery's Holley tried to keep the Bluejackets out of the game when he drilled a long three point shot from the right hand side. Brown added a Nicholas free throw at the 3:18 stop to make the score 52-47 in favor of the Indians.

After Brian Hilander hit one of two free throws, Oakley again called time out with Jackets down by four.

After a pair of Clemens free throws, Travis Sims canned a short jumper and Daniel Brown nailed two key free throws. Nicholas found itself down by only two, 54-52, with only 1:25 left in the game.

Nicholas County resorted to fouling Montgomery in an attempt to get the ball back. Holley hit one of two shots for the Indians, but Howard hauled down the rebound. Travis Sims fouled Howard, who hit one of two charity tosses.

Sims drew a foul for himself, and swished his free throws with 41 seconds to go, but got called for his fifth foul on the other end of the court.

Montgomery County got a free throw at the :37 mark to make the score 57-54, in favor of the Indians.

After Brown missed a three point effort, Dunintand drew the foul and canned the free throws to give Montgomery a 59-54 lead with only :20 to play.

Montgomery County called a time out, and came out in a full court press. Nicholas broke free, and Jarrod Wills pulled the Jackets back in striking distance by canning two free throws. The the Jackets were down by three, 59-56, with only 10 seconds left.

In a last effort to get the ball, Brown fouled Holley, and the Indians put the Jackets out range when both free throws hit their mark. Montgomery held on to win 61-56.

Nicholas Coach Oakley said his Jackets did not come to play in the first quarter.

"You got to give the boys credit. They made a hack of a run at them. Its awfully tough to come in here and win twice in the same season."

Oakley expressed concern for his teams three game losing streak.

"Losing can become a habit, and I hope this team is made up of young men with the character it takes to put the losses behind them."

"Our motto is 'If your satisfied, you'll never improve.' I hope they buckle down and play like I know they can."

Nicholas County dropped to 13-5 on the season while Montgomery improved to 8-8.

A 17-0 run lifts Nicholas over Bath

By William Million
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

PARIS - A 17-0 run in the game's last four minutes propelled Nicholas County's Lady Bluejackets 61-42 opening round victory over Bath County.

This was the second game of action in Thursday night's play of the 1991 10th Region Girls' All A Tournament held at Southside Gym in Paris.

Nicholas advances to Friday night's semi final game against host team Paris.

Paris defeated Deming 80-48 in the evening's first contest.

The Lady Bluejackets were playing without starting guard Nikki Smoot, who suffered an ankle sprain in Wednesday night's practice. She was limited to a brief appearance late in the game.

Nicholas County was led by freshman center Kim Denkins, who picked up the slack by pouring in 25 points, 15 rebounds, and seven blocked shots.

Denkins controlled the opening tip, but Nicholas County quickly turned the ball over to the Ladycats.

Bath County nailed a shot its first time down the floor and claimed the first lead, 2-0.

Kristi Barton ran down court and evened the score on a leaning jumper in the lane at the 6:47 point in the first.

Kim Denkins made her presence known early in the game by blocking two Bath County shots. However, Nicholas could not come through on the offensive side.

Bath County again claimed the lead when Becky Jones drilled a pair of charity shots at the 5:00 mark.

Denkins went down low for the Jackets and knotted the score at 4-4 on a layup.

The Ladycats loosened the contest with jump shots by Jones and Toy. With 3:59 to go in the first, Bath held the lead, 8-4.

Nicholas went to Renee Linville for a jump shot off a screen to pull the score with 3:30 to go.

Jenny Swartz went to the basket and was fouled by Denkins. Swartz canned a free throw to give Bath a 9-6 advantage.

The Lady Jackets cut the lead to one with a pair of Kristi Barton free throws, but the Ladycats went deep on the fast break and found Teri Caudill. Caudill pulled up for the short basket, and the lead was back to three.

At the 1:10 point, Denkins grabbed her own miss and went back up. Nicholas cut the Bath County advantage to 11-10.

Bath finished the scoring for the first quarter with a layup by Jones.

Nicholas County quickly went to work in the paint. Kim Denkins made the score 13-12 on a driving layup.

Bath County found a hole in the Jackets' defense, and Swartz found the basket for an uncontested layup.

Denkins laid in an easy pair off a Christie Hatton assist, and with 6:57 to go in the first half, Nicholas trailed by one, 15-14.

Denkins also had a short jumper 20 seconds later off an inbounds pass. Nicholas found itself with the lead for the first time in the contest, 16-15. Tacy Earlywine added to the lead with a steal and a layup.

Bath County relied on a Caudill layup at the 5:54 period to cut deficit to a point.

Earlywine again swiped a Bath pass and turned it into another layup. Nicholas maintained the lead, 20-17.

Shawna Toy returned the favor for Bath when she stole the ball from Denkins and drove the length of the court for the score.

Hatton tried to push the Jackets away with a 16 foot jump shot from the left side, but at the 4:14 mark, Caudill drilled a baseline shot for the Ladycats.

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