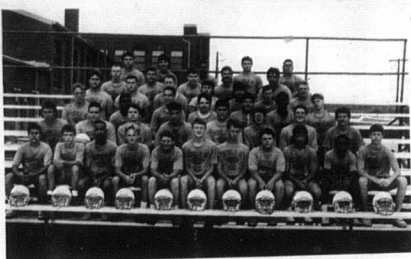


Good Luck Bluejackets Football Team in Football Playoffs



1991 Nicholas County Football Team



1991 Nicholas County Football Cheerleaders

Woody's Auto Repair
Mark and Cindy Hughes
289-7226 (VISA Accepted)

Tracks Restaurant
3030 Concrete Road
Carlisle, KY - 289-5464

Tender Loving Care Daycare
316 N. Walnut St. Carlisle
Stephanie H. Duncan and Beulah Giddens

Southern States
Carlisle Service
126 E. Main St.
289-2539

Carlisle Drug
126 E. Main St.
289-2246

KY National Guard
201 1st Eng. Co.
Carlisle, Ky

Rep. Adrian Arnold
74th Congressional District
Representing Nicholas County

Mathers - Gaunce Funeral Home
105 Locust St. Carlisle, KY.
289-2271

Carlisle Cleaners
115 W. Main - Carlisle
289-5223
Jinnie Johnson

First National Bank
"There's A Difference In Banks"
Carlisle, KY - 289-2251

Farm Credit Services
East Main St.
Carlisle, KY
289-2228

The Hair Hut
5330 Concrete St. Carlisle
Joan Morris - 289-7065

THE CARLISLE MERCURY
"Serving Nicholas County Since 1867"
234 N. Locust St. Carlisle, Ky

Dee Jay Auto Parts
340 West Main - Carlisle
289-2208

Charles Ring, Sheriff
Chuck Smith, Deputy
Nicholas County, Kentucky

Deposit Bank of Carlisle
Come Grow With Us
Two Locations To Serve You

Bowles Grocery/B&B Liquor
Myers Road - 289-9148

Farm Bureau Insurance
364 East Main, Carlisle
289-5597

Hopkins Drug Co.
116 E. Main, Carlisle
David Zachary, Owner

Berry's Service Station
3030 Concrete Road
Carlisle, KY
289-9132

Garrett's Furniture
Quality Furniture at Affordable Prices
289-2308

Garrett's Restaurant
215 N. Broadway
Carlisle, KY
289-7582

Billy and Barbara Hopkins
Carlisle, Ky
289-2593

Neal's Square Deal Furniture
W. Main St. Carlisle
289-5352

Carlisle Pic Pac
Gayle Kelly, Owner
289-2291



Mark Mattox
Auctioneer and Real Estate Broker
106 E. Main, Carlisle 289-5720

Tabor Construction & Backhoeing
289-5629
Jerry and Betsy Tabor

Laytard's Grocery
181 Myers Rd.
289-7434



Nicholas County High School Seniors Honored before the Nicholas-Bath Co. Football game

SPORTS

Jackets fall to Bath 20-12 in district finale

By Josh Shepherd
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY Staff

It was a cold night on Bluejacket field Friday when the Nicholas County Bluejackets took over on downs late in the fourth quarter. The team faced high winds that prevented the long pass and the clock, for once, worked against them.

The Bath County Wildcats eked out a one-touchdown defeat of the Jackets, 20-12, to snatch the district championship and forced the Bluejackets to accept a three-way tie with Kessel and Paintsville for second place.

According to Nicholas County Head Coach Greg Letcher, the team had nothing to regret.

"What our loss boiled down to was our inability to stop the run. Our Achilles heel has been the fact we give up a lot of situations where a team has been set back to third down and long pass was able to do the same thing and in so doing, was able to cut the lead."

"If we develop a good third down defense, we could win any of the games we lost and not let so many other teams force us into come from behind situations," Letcher said.

Weather conditions were the worst either team has had to face in the entire season. Cold temperatures, a blistering west wind and a blustering major factor in the game.

But despite the inclement weather, the game was well out. Fans for the Wildats and Bluejackets were out in force to see a showdown between the top district teams. They would be disappointed only in the final outcome.

First possession went to Bath County. They immediately took to a ground attack which thwarted the best attempts of the Bluejackets linebackers until Kevin Watkins and Justin Rayburn combined to hammer Wildats running back Joe Carpenter in the backfield.

At second down and six the Wildats offense demonstrated itself with a series of serious penalties. With a blocking below the waist penalty committed on a flat pass to Andre Jones, followed by a clipping penalty, the Wildats padded themselves back to the 50 yard line and punted.

The Wildats' poor start was followed by an agile Jackets ground game beginning with Raymond Brown's nine yard run out of deep Nicholas County territory.

Shawn Bassell shot out for the first down and extra yards before Raymond Brown literally waddled across the line to break through to Bath County territory.

The Nicholas County stands were ignited by the first play, but once the Jackets released with its air game at the Bath 45, the forward motion ended with the Jackets.

Two incomplete passes forced the Jackets to punt. The ball slid into the end zone and the Wildats mounted their next attack from their own 20.

The Jackets defense crumpled the backfield. Travis Sims smothered Andre Jones for a loss. Carpenter only managed three yards.

But at third and eight, the Jackets got too hot and watched Eric Straygas sweep past the defensive ends and grab a narrow first down.

The Jackets rallied and jammed the Wildats game to only three yards on two plays. But at third and seven, Carpenter broke through the middle and made up the needed yards to keep the Wildats alive. Kevin Morris made the yard.

The middle run by Carpenter worked magic for the Wildats as they relied on

leaving the Wildats clinging to a mere two point lead.

The Wildats wasted no time clawing their way back. Relying on the middle line run by Carpenter to put them in position, Eric Straygas swept the end for the score in to secure their lead, 14-6. Carpenter was denied the two point conversion, however, when he was very handily clobbered by the Bluejackets defense a yard from the end zone.

Once again the Jackets began to pound out yardage on the ground. With 2:52 to go in the half, Raymond Brown threw off tacklers for an 11 yard gain down field.

An illegal motion call against the Jackets put their progress in jeopardy, but the Jackets remained breathing down the Wildats' neck with a 14-12 score.

The Wildats offense did not appear daunted by the early score as they went to their same ground game which still remained unaffected by the Jackets defense.

Carpenter and Straygas combined for huge gains on the ground before the Jackets lightened up inside as the Wildats reached the Nicholas County 35.

At third and 10, Bassell exploded on Carpenter to thwart the option and a holding call against the Wildats dragged the team back to the 50. With fourth and 16, the Wildats refused to punt and it was all most the call made.

Two receivers on the left side pulled the entire Jackets secondary away from the right side of the field.

Rayburn saw the opportunity and ran with it, covering 14 yards before being knocked down and a boost toward the goal.

With 2:55 to go in the third quarter, the Jackets worked quickly. Brown hit Morris on the numbers and he went sailing to his 45 yard line.

Raymond Brown heaped the front line and jammed into Bath territory. He followed that run with another three yard play. Then disaster struck.

The next play may have been one of the keys to the Jackets' defeat. Daniel Brown, scrambling for room to pass, connected and the Jackets looked as if poised to take the lead. But a flag went down at the 45, a clipping penalty against the Jackets.

From the point of the penalty, officials marked off 18 yards and put the Jackets back into their own territory.

To make up for the huge loss, the Jackets went for a short pass, but Carpenter leaped and pulled it down for an interception that ended the third quarter and caused the Jackets series to fall short of the mark.

At the fourth, the Wildats regained control of the game, scoring with Shane Ramsey minutes after the quarter got going. Chris Jones and Raymond Brown kept the Jackets hopeful alive, however, when they again swept Carpenter short of the end zone to keep the Wildats a mere eight points ahead.

But the Jackets could generate nothing and punted with 9:06 left in the game.

There was still plenty of time to gather forces for another shot at the game. All the defense had to do was stop the Wildats and let the Jackets regain possession.

However, the job proved easier said than done. The Wildats changed their strategy, working on short yardage plays and eating up clock time.

Chris Jones proved himself an effective pull blocker, busting Carpenter out of the way as Raymond Brown slipped between the end and tackle for a Jackets first.

From there, it was time to turn on the Jackets passing game with Brian Okerman making the catch on the sideline for 10 yards and Sims breaking to within 10 yards of the end zone. From the five, Raymond Brown threaded through tacklers and blasted to the goal line.

The opportunity to tie the game fell away from the Jackets as a desperate last gasp pass from Daniel Brown, avoiding to wrenching tacklers, tossed the ball just out of the receiver's hand. But the Jackets remained breathing down the Wildats' neck with a 14-12 score.

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With 2:17 left to go, the Wildats were poised at a fourth and one situation. The Jackets failed to stop the conversion and hope for enough time to work the field for the Jackets faded.

A holding call against the Wildats gave the Jackets enough room to hold. Bath went four downs, but as they took over on possession, they had the wind, the clock, and the Wildats to overcome.

At the 1:00 mark, the Jackets began their surge forward, relying on the sideline pass to Raymond Brown for their first down.

They ran the field for another ten yards and followed with two completes to

Jackets take on Erlanger Lloyd in football playoffs

By Josh Shepherd
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY Staff

Not only has it chucked up a 9-1 record this year, it also boasts one player under consideration for the coveted Mr. Football award.

Erlanger Lloyd will be coming at Nicholas County after an extremely rough test of its ability last Friday against Newport Catholic. It just barely escaped by Newport, 31-29, to seal second place in its district.

Yet despite the obvious strengths Erlanger Lloyd will come to bear on the experienced Nicholas County team, Nicholas County Head Coach Greg Letcher feels that of the four teams they could have faced, Erlanger Lloyd is possibly the best team for Nicholas County to take on.

"They tend to pass quite a bit and they run a wide open offense. We can stop them if we are willing to key on both the pass and run."

"At this stage in the game, there are no weaknesses in teams. We match our strengths against their strengths and the best wins. That's the whole point. I hope the fans come out and support all and we'll give everything they we got." Letcher said.

Nicholas County quarterback Daniel Brown passes against Bath County Friday night in the final game of the regular season.



Nicholas County quarterback Daniel Brown passes against Bath County Friday night in the final game of the regular season.

Raymond Brown catches an eight yard pass from quarterback Daniel Brown for the first score of the game for the Jackets. The extra point conversion play failed and brought the Jackets to within two points at 8-6 in the second quarter.

The Carlisle Mercury/Pam Bowles Photo Brown for the first score of the game for the Jackets. The extra point conversion play failed and brought the Jackets to within two points at 8-6 in the second quarter.

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