

SPORTS

Jackets fall in district play to Paintsville 35-6

By Josh Hayward  
The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — Mistakes on crucial downs and turnovers plagued The Nicholas County Bluejackets Friday night as they were defeated 35-6 in their second district game against Walter Brugg's Paintsville Tigers.

Bluejackets Head Coach Greg Letcher was frustrated by the loss. "When we got determined, we were able to move the ball against this team. I have no doubt we could have got a little closer," he said.

At 4:27 to go in the first quarter, Tiller broke into the end zone for the first score of the night. The Tigers went on top.

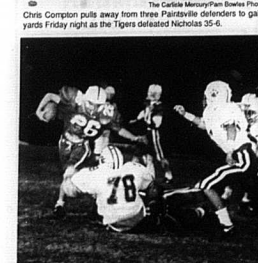
Travis Sims took the next Tiger kick off to the Jackets 35 yard line to begin Nicholas County's next scoring attempt. Front line blocking failed to keep the Tiger-Phillip Crane from tacking 35 yard line where they finally started slowly, but gained momentum after a pass interference penalty on Travis Sims gave the Jackets a first down near the 50 yard line.

Raymond Brown shot through the line for a nine yard gain into Paintsville territory. He followed up with a one yard gain for a first down, but the Tigers defense began to pick the Jackets inside game apart, holding both Brown and Chris Compton to two yards apiece.

At third and six, the Jackets' possession game to a premature end when a pass intended for Morris landed in the hands of Brad Tiller. Morris immediately pulled Tiller down before any gain could be made of the interception.

At the Paintsville 10 yard line, the Tigers began to move quickly downfield, with Tiller and Ray Collins leading the way.

Chris Compton pulled away from three Paintsville defenders to gain yards Friday night as the Tigers defeated Nicholas 35-6.



The Carlisle Mercury/Pan Bowles Photo  
Chris Compton pulls away from three Paintsville defenders to gain yards Friday night as the Tigers defeated Nicholas 35-6.

One opportunity for the Jackets to break the Tigers' advance came early, when Compton, reading a pitch out to Tiller, forced the running back to the inside where he was swarmed by the defense. A holding call on the play pushed the Tigers back to a first and 20. But the next play saw Collins burst for a fifteen yard gain. A quick pass eventually stopped by Daniel Brown, dashed the Jacket's hopes of keeping them contained.

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As the second quarter got underway, the Jackets again mounted an uneven defensive struggle against the Tigers. Matthew Kasee sped for 15 yards to take them from deep in their territory, but on Kasee's next run, Justin Abner slammed the running back into the ground for no gain.

Unfortunately, the Jackets' effort came to nothing when Tiger speedster Tiller broke free on a sweep to cover 70 yards and make the second Tiger's score. With the kick, the Jackets watched the score go up 14-0, in Paintsville's favor.

On this Nicholas County drive, its third of the night, the offense came out fired up to score, picking the Paintsville defense apart in one of the toughest fought drives of the game.

Compton picked up the kick off at the 20 yard line and slid through tacklers to the 25 yard line where they finally started slowly, but gained momentum after a pass interference penalty on Travis Sims gave the Jackets a first down near the 50 yard line.

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With each crushing stop the Jackets would lay on the Tiger, with each penalty forcing the Tiger back, Paintsville would turn the loss around and move the ball steadily toward its end zone.

Morris read a quick pass to the outside and dropped Collins at the line of scrimmage, but Head Coach Brugg refused to punt, gambling successfully on Collins' ability to convert the fourth down and five.

Again, the Jackets controlled the field, holding the Tigers to a third and seven situation until Tiller broke for the score with 37 left in the half.

Sims attempted to turn the tide before the half ended, taking the kick off through defenders. He almost made it, if it weren't for a shoe string.

On the succeeding down, Collins vaulted to the end zone, adding another score and extra point for a 28-6 lead across the end zone. A long pass to Mike French compounded the lead. He sprinted to the sideline, finding open room close to the Tiger before finally being taken out short of the end zone.

Before time ran out in the first half, however, the Tigers had managed to ball their way to the end zone.

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By Melissa Hall  
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CARLISLE — When contacting Rob Lane at the Nicholas County Board of Education Office, you may find yourself in quite a dilemma when deciding the proper way to address him.

Lane has a variety of titles to choose from such as: Nicholas County Director of Pupil Personnel, Director of Transportation, and Policy Coordinator.

He has been involved in education for 20 years and 18 of those have been in Nicholas County.

As the Nicholas County Director of Pupil Personnel, Lane acts as a liaison between the school and the home.

This is his first year as Nicholas County Director of Pupil Personnel and some things are a little uncertain and unfamiliar.

It is his responsibility to oversee that all eligible students are enrolled and regularly attend school in Nicholas County.

Lane gathers information for the census on all school age children in Nicholas County. He also files reports dealing with a student's attendance on a daily basis which is sent to the state two times a year.

In the past, Nicholas County has been at the top in attendance records in the state, he said.

Lane said that the good rate of attendance can be attributed to the concern of parents and teachers in the schools. Unless people want their children in school it just won't happen.

As the Nicholas County Director of Transportation, he is responsible for the maintenance and implementation of a safe transportation system for Nicholas County Schools.

It involves the quality instruction of certified bus drivers. "It's essential that the drivers perform well on their routes and the buses are inspected periodically so they operate in a safe and effective manner."

The state requires that all drivers are certified through rigorous training and they update that training with an additional eight hours of instruction each year.

As of April 1, 1992, all bus drivers will be required to have a commercial driver's license to operate a bus.

Each day all buses are inspected before they make their routes. Each month all buses are inspected by a qualified mechanic, Lane said.

All buses now have nine escape exits in case of an emergency. The buses are also equipped with an alarm system to warn the driver if a student tries to tamper with one of the exits, he said.

There are 34 qualified bus drivers for the Nicholas County Schools.

Lane's job description doesn't necessarily end there. He also performs any other duties as assigned by the Nicholas County Schools Superintendent, Colbert Gilbert.

At this time, Lane is coordinating a home instruction program for students who aren't able to attend school at home who still need school instruction. This will provide them an opportunity to remain on the same learning pace as their classmates, Lane said.

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