



Willy Mullins



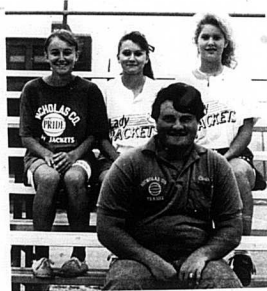
Jim Ring



Roger Vice

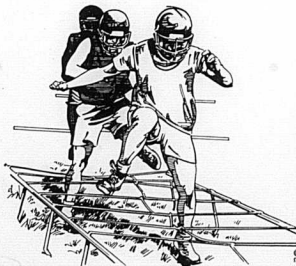


Sammy Whirlies



Nicholas County High School Football Managers

Left to right, front row — Chris Smoot, back row — Becky McGlothlin, Tara George, Melanie Jones. Absent Krista Bussell and Wendy Vice.



Good Luck Jackets
Go For It!

City of Carlisle

Frankie Hughes, Mayor, Carlisle City Council: Doug Garrett, Charles Fay, Tommy Vaughn, Betty Barton, Carmell Lester, Ronnie Clark and All City Employees.

Coaches review their teams abilities

By Josh Shepherd

CARLISLE — In its second year facing a new district, the Bluejackets face what appears to be a fairly evenly matched group of teams, with possible stand out challengers for the top spot coming from Bath County and Raceland. Most district coaches have figured both the Wildcats and the Rams teams to be at or near their best this year, having lost few people from the 1991 team.

In addition, the Bluejackets have made two significant adjustments to their schedule from last year, bringing back the Madison Southern Eagles for the first home game of the Bluejackets' season in place of Alvis Johnson's Harrodsburg Troopers and moving Grant County into the position which was occupied by Knott County Central.

The Jackets were in a position to take the district championship last year, only to have it stripped from them by the Wildcats in the final game of the regular season.

However, into the post-season, all four teams in the district were knocked out of post-season play in the first round of the single A school play offs against larger northern Kentucky high schools.

Still, Bluejackets fans should prepare for a close battle among the district teams, with all but one of them coming at the Bluejackets in succession during mid-season.

Fairview Eagles
Rex Cooksey

Of the six district teams last year, Fairview fared the worst, losing to every team and popping in the last place spot with a record of 0-5 in the district and 5-5 overall.

This year, however, the Fairview Eagles, which were heavy on the freshman and sophomore side in 1991, still retains most of its starting lineup. The difference, Cooksey said, is the experience

and maturity of this developing team.

"We still lean heavily on our younger kids, but we won't be putting out a starting roster of seven sophomores and two juniors like we did last year. We're not senior dominated, but we're not young either," Cooksey said.

Bouncing back from a 5-5 record has made the team much more mentally tough, Cooksey said. They have known the frustration of winning everything but what gets counted. There is no indication the team feels defeated out of the gate, he said.

"Top to bottom, we're tough. We can't rely on being young as an excuse anymore. Our quickness and strength have improved and I'm seeing a greater amount of depth out of the backfield. Hopefully, we can give teams a variety of looks, keep them wondering where we're going to come at them."

"We're a small school and we are awfully dependent on using what talent we have. Defensively, I think there are weak spots. But overall, I believe we're going to be a much tougher ball club to overcome," Cooksey said.

Paintsville Tigers
Walter Brugh

The Paintsville Tigers threw the Bluejackets for their first district loss and the second loss of the regular season on the Jackets home field. In fact, all but one of the Nicholas County's losses occurred, oddly, on their home field.

Although arguably one of the most talented teams in the district, the Tigers had their low points, fumbling six times to give up a game against a very young Paris Greyhounds team, then coming back with an almost flawless defeat of the heavily favored Bath County Wildcats to end the regular season with a 7-3 record.

However, Brugh felt the team continued to return and deal of work to do to match the talent of its previous

team. Like the Bluejackets, the Tigers lost 12 seniors to graduation which made up its entire backfield and a significant portion of its forward line. Two former starters remain, Brugh said, a guard and the Tiger's quarterback.

"They're looking pretty green out on the field, being inexperienced almost all the way across. In our scrimmage against Fairview, there were some highlights, but we were still out scored. We did, however, score first," Brugh said.

Defensively, Brugh said, "The Tigers are weak, but as the season continues, he said he is confident the team will improve. Conditioning is imperative, he said, because most of his team will have to play both ways."

"I believe the Tigers are an up and coming team but this may not be our year. We have talent and ability, but much of it is untapped and unsteady but none appear to be quitters. If we can get our confidence level up, it could turn out to be a pretty good season," Brugh said.

Raceland Rams
Bill Tom Ross

The 1991 game against the Raceland Rams was far and away the most exciting comeback victory in the Bluejackets' season. But the Rams, unlike the Jackets, have kept a good deal of its team intact coming into the new season.

Rams Head Coach Bill Tom Ross was unavailable for comment on the 1992 season, but in several coaches interviews, Raceland's name came up as one of the promising teams for the season.

Better speed and a sampling of experienced players have prevented the Rams from losing too much from the senior rotation last year. In commentary on his '91 season, Ross was faced with replacing an entire backfield with young players. That team continued to return and very nearly handed the Jackets their second district loss.

They bring with them a football tradition and a much faster team.

Paris Greyhounds
David Buchanan

Despite struggling through a 2-8 record last year, the Paris Greyhounds took the Bluejackets into overtime in a dramatic conclusion to the annual rivalry. While the defeat of Paintsville was the Greyhounds most significant achievement over the past season, new Paris football head coach David Buchanan feels most of the woes of the last season are behind them.

Buchanan, an assistant coach for the Greyhounds last year, steps up into the head coaching position vacated by Roger Gramscien. It is Buchanan's first stint ever as a head coach and the transition, tough at first, he said, has worked itself out.

Inexperience, Buchanan said, remains a weak point in the Greyhounds' starting roster, but it is not likely to become as debilitating to the team as it was 12 months previous.

"We have seven seniors in the lineup, but only two of those seven have been with the program four years. Three have been with us for two to three years, and the rest are out for the first time," Buchanan said.

Paris' strong point is its conditioning, he said. The team is in excellent physical shape and performance on the field has been impressive in the early going.

The backfield, he said, is working to develop a much more effective game on the ground. Buchanan feels the Greyhounds need to rely less on big yardage pass plays and concentrate more on moving the ball consistently downfield.

"I've got a quarterback capable of throwing the ball, but we don't have backs with the breakaway speed we used to have. As they get older, they'll get faster. Maybe even as the season progresses," he said.

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