Lady Jackets clinch regional berth; down Bourbon 50-33

By Pam Bowles
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CYNTHIANA — The Nicholas County Lady Jackets clinched a regional berth by downing Bourbon County for the third time this season 50-33 in the opening round of the 37th district tournament.

The Lady Jackets inside game could not be stopped by the Lady Colonels, Monday night as Kim Denkins and Tacy Earlywine dominated the middle for Nicholas County.

Denkins opened the game by sinking two free throws and a bucket under the goal off a Christie Hatton assist.

Roberta Jackson answered for the Lady Colonels with a basket in the paint.

Denkins hit a turn around basket to take a 6-2 lead.

Bourbon County came roaring back to fire in three straight jumpers to take an 8-6 lead.

With 1:08 left in the first quarter Earlywine picked up a lose ball for a basket to take a 9-8 lead.

Beverly Berry drove the middle to regain the lead at 10-9 at the end of the first quarter for the Lady Colonels.

Denkins scored the first two buckets of the second quarter off nice assists from Hatton and Nikki Smoot to take a 13-10 advantage.

Renee Linville made a good move through the center of the lane for the score and Hatton grabbed a rebound for a put back to push the lead to 17-11.

With 2:30 left in the second quarter Denkins sank two free throws, Elizabeth Schanding made a steal and Earlywine scored the bucket for a 21-11 lead.

Berry canned two free throws for Bourbon and Denkins ended the quarter with her patented shot of the evening to take a 23-13 lead into intermission.

The third quarter belonged to the Lady Jackets as their offense scored 15 points and held Bourbon to only two free throws for the entire quarter.

Hatton sank two free throws to open fourth quarter to extend the lead to 45-15.

With 5:46 left in the game Earlywine's bucket put the Lady Jackets lead back to 25 at 44-19.

Bourbon scored 10 straight points to cut the lead to 44-29 with 3:11 left in the game.

Earlywine drove the middle of the lane for a basket to push the lead to 46-29.

Heather McCarty and Crystal Gaunce scored for the Lady Colonels to cut the lead to 46-33.

Denkins scored the final three baskets to give the Lady Jackets a 50-33 victory over Bourbon County.

Coach Barbara Kenney said, "We did an excellent defensive job on Bourbon County.

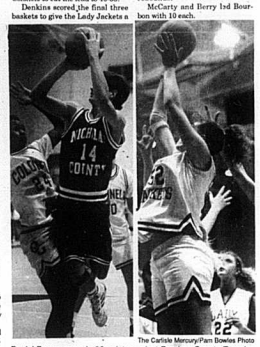
"Our inside game was suburb and to hold Bourbon to only two free throws in the third quarter was terrific.

"Kim Denkins and Tacy Earlywine both came to play tonight.

"We want to win the district and take home the game ball, but we're going back to the region."

The Lady Jackets were led in scoring by Denkins with 22 and seven rebounds, followed by Earlywine with 22 and six rebounds, Hatton added five points and five assist, Linville had two points, Smoot added one point and nine assists and Barton had three rebounds.

McCarty and Berry led Bourbon with 10 each.



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In junior varsity action Clark County handed the Lady Jackets their second loss of the season 46-30 and ended their season with a record of 18-2.

Tawyna Livingood and Melanie Jones led the Lady Jackets with six, Alicha Sibert followed with five, Michella Hopkins had four, Becky Jolly and Jennifer Willoughby added three each, Elizabeth Schanding with two, and one for Tara George.

Daniel Brown pours in 30 points against Bourbon County Tuesday night and Kim Denkins adds 22 to the Lady Jackets cause over Bourbon County on Monday night.

Bluejackets make last second comeback over Bourbon 52-53

By Pam Bowles
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

PARIS — Bourbon County held to the lead until the :04.4 in the fourth quarter when Daniel Brown fired in a three pointer from the tpp of the key as the Jackets advance to the semi-finals of the 37th District Tournament on Thursday against Harrison County.

As the Jackets came charging back to defeat Bourbon 53-52 Tuesday night.

The Colonels held to a 10-9 lead after the first period and pushed the lead to 20-14 at intermission.

The Jackets missed 17 shots in the first half to put them in a whole to start the second half of the game.

Nicholas County couldn't find the handle on the game as the team fell behind 26-16 off a Keene Bryant free throw.

Brown fired in a baseline three pointer to cut the lead to 26-19 with 4:11 left in the third period.

The Jackets could not gain any ground on the Colonels as Jon Fowler canned two free throws to end the third quarter as Bourbon led 34-24.

Brown opened the fourth quarter with a bucket under the goal to cut the Bourbon lead to 34-26.

John Lawson followed with a jumper and Bryant added a free throw to push the lead to 35-26.

Jarrod Wills sank two free throws to cut the lead to 35-28 and then caused a five second call on Bourbon County.

Wills commented his fourth fouled and Lawson canned both charity tosses to push the lead back to 37-28.

Brown drove the middle for basket to cut the lead to 37- with 5:44 left in the game.

On the next possession Wills picked up his fifth foul and Marty Rankin sank one of two from the free throw line to push the lead to 38-30.

Brown followed with two free throws and a bucket on the next possession after a miss free throw by Bourbon County to cut the lead 38-34.

Simons stole the ball and Sims grabbed a rebound for a put back to cut the lead to 38-36 with 3:17.

Simons and Morris picked their fourth foul each and Bourbon hit three of four free throws to push the lead to 43-37.

Brown sank two free throws and Rankin followed with two charity tosses to give Bourbon a 45-39 lead with 1:24.

With 1:06 left in the game Brown sank two free throws to cut the lead to 46-41.

Nicholas County had to foul and Bradley Brown committed the foul and then was pushed by Lawson and he was assessed a technical foul. Bourbon County's coach, Russ Day was also assessed a technical.

Lawson canned both free throws and Daniel Brown hit three of four tosses to cut the lead to 48-44.

Bradley Brown squared up and fired in a three pointer to cut the lead to 48-47.

Bourbon hit four straight free throws to push the lead to 52-47.

Morris dropped behind the three point line to gun in a shot to cut the lead to 52-50 after the Jackets had missed twice.

Morris then fouls out and Robie Webb misses the front end of the one and one, but a jump ball was called and Bourbon took the possession.

Bradley Brown knocked the ball lose, then misses his shot, and Simons fouls out.

Webb misses the front end and Daniel Brown fires in a three pointer at the top of the key with :04.4 left in the game as Nicholas took a 53-52 lead.

Bourbon was called for a walk, Nicholas then threw the ball out bounce, but Bourbon could not hit the final shot as Nicholas makes a comeback 53-52.

Nicholas County Coach Ed Oakley said, "We kept in there and kept plugging and were missing shots on the inside of our offense.

"We played poor, but like Jason Geroge said we have got to play smarter to win.

"Bradley did good job hitting the three pointer when we needed it and knocked the ball lose.

"We will practice tomorrow to begin play against Harrison. We are 1-0 and they are 0-0 in the new season."

Nicholas was led by Daniel Brown with 30, followed by Morris with seven, six each to Wills and Sims, Bradley Brown added three and one for Simons.

Clark stops Lady Jackets

By Pam Bowles
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

WINCHESTER — The 14th ranked Lady Cardinals played a very deliberate game as they handed the 19th ranked Lady Jackets their third lose of the season 41-23.

Nicholas County ende the regular season at 24-3.

The Lady Jackets struck first with a three point play by Christie Hatton with 4:31 left in the first quarter.

Stephany Davis fired in two jumpers for the Clark County for the only scoring in the first quarter as the Lady Cards led 4-3 after one period.

The Lady Jackets were one for nine under the basket in the first half of the game.

Clark County scored six straight points to take a 20-9 lead with 2:46 left in third period.

Beck ended the quarter with a jumper to push the Clark County lead to 22-12.

The Lady Cards scored the first two buckets of the fourth quarter to push the lead to 26-12.

The last two minutes of the game Clark County canned seven of eight from the free throw line to seal the victory at 41-23.

Hatton led Nicholas County with six, Smoot and Denkins followed with five, and Earlywine added three and two each to Barton and Linville.

Coach Barbara Kenney said, "I felt our defense was good, but we missed too many easy shots.

"The two Davis girls are very quick they have been in the state track meet every year.

"They are very disciplined team with their slow down offense."

Nicholas County falls to Menifee

By Pam Bowles
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE — The end of the regular season came to a disappointing finale as Menifee County ended the Jackets farewell to the home crowd for eight seniors 65-62.

Scott Carty fired in a three pointer for Menifee County to open the game.

With 4:27 in the first quarter Brown gunned in a three from the baseline to tie the score at 5-5.

Menifee scored eight straight points to push the lead to 13-5.

Daniel Brown hit a three pointer, Steve Brown scored a bucket for Menifee, and Jarrod Wills added a three pointer to end the quarter to cut the score to 15-11.

Wills and Brown pushed the lead to 29-19 with 3:44 left in the second.

The Jackets maintained the 10 point spread as Daniel Brown fired in a three pointer with three seconds left before intermission for a 37-27 lead.

Carty ended the quarter with a three pointer from the top of the key to increase the lead to to 47-44.

Menifee outscored the Jackets 17-7 in the third period.

The Jackets took the lead back at 3:58 left in the game off Willis' three pointer for a score of 55-54.

With 2:35 left in the game Wills took the ball all the way for a bucket, Travis Sims grabbed a rebound, Daniel Brown drove the ball and canned to free throws to push the lead to 61-57.

The Jackets held to a four point lead, but missed two front ends of one and ones and Menifee hit on the other end.

Derrin O'Hair hit under the basket to push the lead to 64-62 with 39 seconds left.

Wills was called for losing the ball out of bounce and Carty hit one free throw to end the game at 65-62.

Brown led Jackets with 33, Wills followed with 16, Simons added fired, Sims had four and two for Kevin Morris.

In junior varsity action Nicholas County ended their season with a 43-29 downing of Menifee.

Bradley Brown and John Brown led with nine each, Charles Nichols and Israel Stacy added six each, Chris Al' son had four, Bradley Trussell, Wes Broderick, Chris Sexton, and Kevin Feeback had two each and one for Joe Compton.

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