

## Graduation Special Inside

**Baesler wins Nicholas and Sixth District  
Bush and Clinton post victories in  
Nicholas and Kentucky**  
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# THE CARLISLE MERCURY

SERVING NICHOLAS COUNTY SINCE 1867  
125th Year, No. 23 Carlisle, KY 40311-0272 Thursday, May 28, 1992 50 cents per copy



Bill Hardin, commander of American Legion Nicholas Post #7, and Don Shickler, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5666, carry the annual Memorial Day trophy. In a special memorial day ceremony honoring the veterans of Nicholas County who gave their lives, honor, and loyalty in service to the United States. Featured was the traditional 21-gun salute delivered by members of the Legion and VFW.

## First year softball team

# Lady Jackets captures first district title

**By Josh Shephard**  
*The Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE — The Nicholas County Lady Jackets softball team ripped through the 38th District softball tournament to claim their first tournament trophy. Not bad for their first year over as a team.

Due to the relatively late numbers of high school girls softball teams, Nicholas' softball competed for the 38th rather than the 37th district title, which nonetheless included some very stiff competition.

**Nicholas Co. — 17**  
**Bracken Co. — 5**  
Tara George kicked off the U.S. rout of the Bracken County Lady Polar Bears with

a home run that complemented two previous runs to stage a first inning, 3-0 lead for the Jackets.

With Tracy Earlywine on the mound, the team held the Polar Bears to a single two base scoring run from Bracken with but a single out against them. Luck and hits, however, would be rare for the Polar Bear team.

Kim Denkins scored off a double from Michella Hopkins in the fourth to kick off a six run, no out, rally. Jennifer Johnson brought two runs in off a triple, then was batted in herself off a single from Tonya Livingston.

The Jackets continued to roll through the fifth, slamming in seven runs to all but

seal the game. However, at the bottom of the fifth, Bracken regained respect, leading the bases and moving in for four runs to cut the Jackets game to a 1-6 score.

The Jackets final score was walked in by Favia Pope with bases loaded. After the third out, the Polar Bears waved the seventh inning.

**38th District Finals**  
**Nicholas Co. — 15**  
**Mason Co. — 6**

A seven run rally at the top of the sixth inning sealed victory for the Lady Jackets, but the real star of the district finals was a display of outstanding fielding from both squads.

Until the sixth inning the score remained tight despite a

slow start from the Lady Royals. It just goes to prove, though, that in softball, comebacks are common and undetermining a team could be deadly.

Denkins and Hopkins unleashed the Lady Jackets steam early, belting back-to-back infield home runs at the

top of the first inning. Tina Fryman was next, coming off a sacrifice from Johnson. With another first inning score from George, the Royals slugged the third out and headed to the plate.

Gabriella Fryman snatched a grander off third and hauled it to first baseman

the bottom of the third inning had the Jackets blanking the Lady Royals, 7-0.

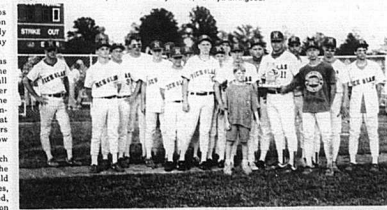
However, the bottom of the third changed the entire pace of the game when errors gave the Lady Royals an infield triple right from the very first hit. A single brought the run in. Three more runs were scored with infield errors accumulating rapidly against the Lady Jackets. Tina Fryman, stretching for a wide throw from the shortstop, managed to keep her foot on the bag to grab the third out and stop the Royals rally.

With bases loaded at the bottom of the fourth, a double play led by Denkins prevented comeback scoring.

At the top of the sixth, the Lady Jackets ran through the lineup in a seven-run scoring drive that decimated the Lady Royals. Continued on Page 2



The Nicholas County Bat Jackets claimed the 37th District runners-up trophy in their charter membership. (Front row, left to right) Gabriella Fryman, Elizabeth Schandling, Jennifer Johnson, Stuphine Stumpert, Tracy Earlywine, Tara Fryman, Tara George, Laura Taor (back row, left to right) Melaine Jones, Cybil Hunt, Emily Hamilton, Favia Pope, Coach Bobby Shore, Tonya Livingston.



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## Clay Farm rifle quota hunt cancelled this year

**By Josh Shephard**  
*The Carlisle Mercury Staff*

CARLISLE — Due to the steady decrease in deer population on the Clay Wildlife Management Area, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department has ordered a suspension of the Rifle Quota Hunt indefinitely.

Word of the suspension was received several days ago, according to Clay Wildlife Manager Buford Clark. The archery season, however, will remain from October 15 to November 13 but is limited to buck hunting only, Clark said.

John Phillips, one of four biologists that compose the Kentucky Wildlife Management Deer Committee, said the committee recommended suspension of all deer hunting on Clay Wildlife. Track count surveys Clark has regularly at Clay Wildlife to keep an account of the deer population in the management area have shown numbers declining since the quota hunt opened four to five years ago, Phillips said.

The quota hunt, an institutional hunt held every year on

the Clay Farm, was strictly limited both in the numbers of hunters on the area and the number of deer allowed to be removed.

On average, Phillips said, the quota hunt harvested approximately 12 deer a year. Estimates on the average numbers of deer taken in bow hunting were unavailable, but Phillips said the combined average take of hunters in both seasons does not adequately account for the decline in deer population. Clay Wildlife experienced over the last five years.

Clay Wildlife was stocked with a young herd of deer in the early eighties, Phillips said. A careful account of its population during that time showed a steady growth, Phillips said. The herd was allowed to grow until surveys indicated an approximate total of one deer for every 50 acres of land on the management area. The quota hunt had low season on Clay Wildlife opened.

However, as soon as a deer season began on Clay Farm, a steady decline in the popula-

tion occurred almost immediately, Phillips said.

"In the last track count, about half the original herd remains on the area. That's not enough to sustain the population if hunting were allowed to continue," Phillips said.

But according to Phillips allowing the hunt to open on what was still a relatively small deer population may have been premature.

"Even with a land mass as large as the Clay Farm, one in fifty is still a fairly small herd. But at the time deer hunting was opened on the area, it was felt by the committee and the department that there were sufficient numbers to allow active rifle and bow hunting," Phillips said.

Although such factors such as deer migration out of the area and dog pressure could account for some of the losses, poachers, Phillips pointed, may be the primary reason behind the drop in deer population.

"Migration is possible, but unlikely to have caused much of the population drop. There Continued on Page 2