

NICHOLAS COUNTY LADY JACKETS CLAIM STATE HOOP CROWN

Lady Jackets take first step as Whitesburg falls, 61-47

By Rebecca Mullins
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
FRANKFORD — The Whitesburg Lady Yellowjackets have been to the Sweet 16 five times, each time in hope of the state title.

The Lady Yellowjackets, one of the top-ranked teams in the state, had a 31-2 record before meeting up with the Lady Jackets last Wednesday at the Frankfort Civic Center in the opening round of the Kentucky State girls basketball championship.

Both teams were prepared for success in the first-round match.

But only one team could win. And that team was Nicholas County, winning the match 61-47.

After the match was over, Whitesburg walked away with the knowledge they had played fast and hard, and well. Nicholas County walked away with a spot in the Sweet 16 final eight.

The Lady Jackets took the lead over Whitesburg early in the match as they pressured Whitesburg's young players with their years of playing experience.

In the first quarter, Kim Denkins scored eight of Nicholas County's 12 points in the quarter.

The first two points in the game were scored by Denkins. At 7:30, Christie Hutton passed off to Denkins enabling her to score the basket.

In the middle of the first, Denkins was being double-teamed, leaving offensive work to the other players.

At 4:36, Elizabeth Schanding counted two points with a layup for a 10-8 lead over Whitesburg.

At the start of the second quarter, Whitesburg sophomore center Tennifer Blair was anxious to bring up her team's lead, and played Denkins' role for Whitesburg, waiting under the basket to score for her team.

She also played heavy defense on Denkins, encouraging the Lady Jackets to work on a different offensive mode.

So the Nicholas County girls began to work from the outside. The girls tried to get the ball to Hutton and

succeeded. As a result, the player with an eye for a three-pointer scored three points at 6:30 to make the score 16-12.

Hutton scored two of three three-point goals in the game. Renee Linnville scored a three-pointer also at 5:22 in the third quarter.

At 5:14 in the second, Hutton was fouled and went to the line to score two-of-two.

She had managed at that point to bring the score to 22-22 for a score of 32-23, Nicholas County.

Denkins received her third foul at 4:36 but came right back in the game at 3:40 and rebounded a shot, passing it off to Hutton and Smoot until she was clear.

Nikki Smoot and Linnville broke the tie at 1:57, however, as Smoot, fouled by Whitesburg player Tennifer Blair, hit a shot from the line and Linnville made two points at 1:23 on the baseline.

A heavy amount of foul action by the Whitesburg team at the end of the second quarter gave Nicholas the chance to raise the lead by eight points from the line.

At 1:03, Denkins scored one from the charity stripe

for a 23-19 Lady Jackets' lead. With :45 remaining, Hutton scored one and a bonus for a Jackets' lead of 27-19 at the half.

Hutton, after trying to rebound the ball twice at the start of the third, lost the ball to Lady Yellowjackets Amanda Baker at 5:22 in the third and fouled Baker, giving her two-of-two at the line.

But it wasn't until a minute later when Linnville hit her three-point shot at 5:22 for a score of 32-23, Nicholas County.

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rebound and scored a hit-in-the-paint for a 53-37 lead. She then scored another two-point hit at 1:55.

Hutton fouled at 1:16, but when the ball came back to Nicholas, Smoot assisted to score one and a bonus from the line.

In the final two seconds of play, Tawnya Livingood pressed to score the second round of the Sweet Sixteen against Calloway County Friday.

Scoring and state: Renee Linnville, seven points, two rebounds, three assists; Elizabeth Schanding, four points, one assist; Kim Denkins, 19 points, 15 rebounds, two assists; Nikki Smoot, 10 points, three rebounds, three assists; Tawnya Livingood, two points, one rebound; Jennifer Willoughby, one point.

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Nicholas County's dream continues with quarter-final win over Calloway

By Rebecca Mullins
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
FRANKFORD — The Lady Jackets' win in the quarterfinals of the state tournament against the Calloway County Lakers was little surprise to the basket-ball whiz-kids of Nicholas County.

Calloway County was the Region 1 winner, beating Murray 69-30 and losing to Myfield 43-34 in the District 4 tournament and proceeded to beat Grava County, Highland and Hickman County in the regional tournament.

With a record of 21-8, the Lady Lakers had a way to go before they could beat out the record 33-2 Lady Jackets in the second round.

"They couldn't do it. Our kids came out ready. Defensively, we took a 10-point lead. We had a five-point lead at the half (because) they (Nicholas County) had a difficult time," Hutton said.

"Calloway wasn't going to take any time off the clock. As soon as we took that ball, we knew they wouldn't let us rest."

Kenney said the Lady Jackets were primed for action after their win against Whitesburg in the first round, which made them more confident against Calloway County.

"We beat the second best team in the state. Maybe this time wasn't as tough. Kenney said, 'But let's give credit where credit is due. That team played extremely well today.'"

Nikki Smoot, who scored five points in the game with one field goal and three free throws, commented on the match in an interview session after the game.

"We made a run and got ahead of them. We tried to stop Shelton and she'd get it to an open 'man,' Smoot said. 'We didn't get the job done for a little while.'"

The job was finished with Nicholas ending with a lead of 62-43 over the Lady Lakers.

Hutton had the lead over Nicholas in the first minute of play after Shelton hit a three right after tip-off. Kim Denkins took the rebound, only to lose the ball to Calloway while trying to score on the rebound.

But then Nicholas zone in on the Lakers. Renee Linnville stole the ball and hit a short jumper at 6:11.

Linnville was fouled at 5:47 and scored two-of-two

at the line to bring the Jackets' lead to 4-3.

At 4:52, Christie Hutton hit a short jumper for a four-point lead over the Lakers. Then Smoot was fouled and shot one-of-two at the free-throw line.

The Lakers were on the Lady Jackets like glue after the Jackets reached a 7-3 lead at 3:59.

Smoot was weaving back and forth through the Lakers' defense, trying to escape the team's double-teaming. Meanwhile, Lakers Antonia Dunn, Molly Wischart and Leah Darnell all fouled within 19 seconds of play.

At 2:47, Laker KaDonna Randolph fouled Kim Denkins who went up to score one-of-two at the line. Denkins then took the rebound and proceeded to score two points at 2:19.

Schanding tried to make a fast break to Smoot. The ball headed out-of-bounds, but Denkins saved it and brought it to the goal to score two points.

The Jackets now had a 39-30 margin over the Lakers.

Something very enjoyable happened at 2:08 for the Jackets. They were able to score one-of-two at the line. Denkins then took the rebound and proceeded to score two points at 2:19.

Schanding tried to make a fast break to Smoot. The ball headed out-of-bounds, but Denkins saved it and brought it to the goal to score two points.

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That was the last point scored by the Jackets before the half.

At 6:50 in the third quarter, Christie Hutton took a long pass and scored a three-pointer. After a goal by the Lakers, Denkins took the rebound and scored two in the paint. The score was raised to 39-28 with the Lady Jackets back down to a small lead.

The Jackets rose to a seven-point lead at 2:00 after Denkins hit two points on a rebound and Smoot, while double-teamed, scored two on a layup.

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Elizabeth Schanding makes rings around the Calloway County Lakers as the crowd at the gym gets the ball in to Kim Denkins for a hit. The Lakers watch in the background, amid the her tempo.

Congratulations, Lady Jackets!
Compliments Of Your Fan
Dr. Geoffrey Peters

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Photos By Rebecca Mullins and Jason Hart

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Join With The Carlisle Mercury In Offering Congratulations To The Nicholas Lady Jackets In Capturing The Girls Sweet 16!

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- The Menifee County News
- The Morehead News
- The Olive Hill Times
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VS Whitesburg	MIN	FG	FTA	3FG	3FGA	FT	FTA	REB	A	PF	TPS
Linnville	30	3	4	1	1	0	2	2	3	2	7
Schanding	27	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4
Denkins	28	7	10	0	0	5	8	15	3	19	9
Smoot	31	3	7	0	0	4	4	3	3	2	10
Hutton	32	4	8	2	3	9	12	5	5	2	19
George	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Hopkins	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livingood	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Sibert	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willoughby	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	160	20	34	3	4	18	26	32	16	12	61
WHITESBURG	160	21	27	0	7	5	10	25	9	23	47
VS Calloway	MIN	FG	FTA	3FG	3FGA	FT	FTA	REB	A	PF	TPS
Linnville	32	3	8	1	2	3	4	3	3	3	10
Schanding	31	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	2
Denkins	28	9	17	0	0	8	13	12	2	3	26
Smoot	32	1	10	0	0	3	6	7	5	1	9
Hutton	32	3	10	0	1	1	3	3	0	3	7
George	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hopkins	5	1	2	0	0	0	2	4	0	0	2
Livingood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sibert	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willoughby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	160	18	46	1	3	15	30	34	12	14	52
CALLOWAY	160	17	46	3	8	6	7	31	6	26	43
VS Clay	MIN	FG	FTA	3FG	3FGA	FT	FTA	REB	A	PF	TPS
Linnville	32	6	11	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Schanding	32	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Denkins	32	2	6	0	0	13	18	14	0	4	17
Smoot	32	1	6	0	0	9	11	2	0	1	11
Hutton	32	1	10	0	0	1	4	3	2	1	0
George	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hopkins	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livingood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sibert	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willoughby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	160	11	38	1	1	10	24	32	2	11	37
CLAY	160	11	38	1	1	8	14	30	4	24	37
VS Warren East	MIN	FG	FTA	3FG	3FGA	FT	FTA	REB	A	PF	TPS
Linnville	29	2	5	0	1	2	4	4	1	5	6
Schanding	32	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Denkins	31	11	23	0	0	3	5	18	2	3	25
Smoot	31	2	7	0	0	4	7	0	1	1	8
Hutton	32	2	7	1	2	1	3	2	5	3	6
George	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hopkins	4	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	1
Livingood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sibert	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Willoughby	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	160	18	43	1	3	11	24	27	10	14	48
WARRENEAST	160	19	41	3	9	5	8	20	12	24	46