

## NICHOLAS COUNTY LADY JACKETS CLAIM STATE HOOP CROWN

### Finals against Warren East.....

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Stephanie Talley scored a hit from the inside.

Her points were no good, however, because she fouled Denkins who connected those two points at the free-throw line.

At 2:00, Denkins scored two points on a rebound to bring the Jackets' lead up to a lead with a six-point margin. The score was 23-17 at the half.

At the start of the third, Denkins scored two more points. The lead increased to 25-17.

Linville stole the ball from Warren East after the team took the rebound, then Warren East stole it back. The Lady Raiders' energy was ill spent, however, because Denkins got the ball back and put it in for two, accomplishing the Lady Jackets' largest lead of the game, 10 points.

Hatton scored two points when she hit a layup at 6:44. The score remained with a 10-point margin as the Lady Jackets led 28-18. Denkins fouled at 5:51, and some good work at the line and at the basket by Elrod helped Warren East cut into the Jackets' lead by four points to narrow the margin to 29-23.

Elrod then scored another hit at 5:29 to bring the

score margin down to four points.

Kim Denkins avenged the Lady Raiders' point gain, however, when she hit two in the paint at 4:57. Then Denkins hit two more at 4:10, which brought the Jackets' lead up eight points.

At 5:05, Smoot scored two in the paint for a 36-30 lead. Then Elizabeth Schanding hit a two-pointer on a layup at 1:10. Not more than 30 seconds later, Linville nailed one in the bucket to bring the Jackets' another six-point lead over the Lady Raiders.

With one point scored by Smoot at the line with 1:15 remaining in the quarter, the quarter ended with a 41-33 Lady Jackets lead.

The furious action really began at 5:13 when Smoot hit two points on a layup and then scored one from the line after being fouled by Alison Smith. The margin still was set at six points, with the Lady Jackets leading the game 43-37.

At 3:51, Denkins hit two in the paint for the Jackets' first eight point lead of the quarter.

It didn't last long, though, Warren East had managed to bring itself up

five points by 2:15, and the Jackets had only advanced three points.

At 1:34, as a free-throw point was scored by Linville after a foul by Massey, the Jackets' lead remained at an uncertain five points, especially since Linville had fouled out of the game five seconds later. The score was 47-42 at 1:34 in the quarter.

Warren East's Massey made two points from the line at 1:28 to narrow the score three more points. Michella Hopkins helped the situation when she scored one point at the line.

That point was the last scored by the Lady Jackets in the championship match.

The rest of the game, Nicholas worked strong defense on the team, two-teaming Warren East to keep it away from the goal.

Alison Smith sneaked through the defense and scored a two-pointer with 3:15 remaining, a real nail-biter for Nicholas County.

Warren East Coach Blane Embry called a timeout to decipher what his team needed to do to get the game into overtime. It didn't have the advantage of ball possession for its next play due to a foul by

Elrod at 3:11.

Warren East never did regain the ball to make three points.

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Linville took the ball and hit a two-pointer with it at 3:27 to bring the score to 43-37. The Jackets had the advantage.

At 3:01, Hatton hit a two-pointer to bring the Jackets' lead to 46-39.

Some great defensive play took place on both ends of the court.

Smoot stole the ball from Calloway, only to have it stolen back by Farris Beach.

Beach was fouled, but scored nothing from the charity stripe.

At 1:04, Linville took the ball on a pass from Denkins and scored two points to push the Jackets' lead to 47-39.

Hatton then fouled Shelton, who scored two-for-two at the line.

The rest of the action on the floor was at the line. Kim Denkins was fouled twice before the end of the game, and hit two-for-two in the third.

Linville also hit one at the line after an intentional foul was called on Later

those two points because its fouls left the ball in Nicholas' hands. The rest

is Nicholas County history. And they are champions.

### Quarter-finals against Calloway.....

Continued from Page 3

grabbed a Calloway miss on the other end.

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Renee Linville tries to avoid a steal by Warren East's Elrod and two other opposing players in the finals. It appears in this shot Renee was trying very hard to protect that ball. Elizabeth Schanding stood in the wings, waiting to pounce on anyone who tried to get to the ball she has been trained like a soldier to defend. Renee won't be back next year, but Elizabeth will help carry on the team's winning tradition with her excellent defensive action.

### Semifinals against Clay County.....

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a 12-10 lead.

Nicholas remained in the lead until the end of the second, due to a beautiful three-point shot at 1:34. The Jackets finished with a 15-14 advantage at the half.

The Tigerettes came back ready to fight at the beginning of the third.

Jackson led the battle with a two-point bucket at 7:41. But then Dezarn fouled and sent Denkins to the line to score a point.

The next points scored were by Smoot, who made a two-point hit at 6:42 to bring the Jackets into the lead once again, 18-16.

At 6:08, the score was tied 18-18 following another hit by Jackson.

Jackson received her third foul at 2:52 in the third, and was in danger of fouling out of the one game in which her team needed her most.

Smoot went to the line and connected two points. Denkins took her place at the line at 2:22 after Reid obtained another foul.

The third ended with Smoot going for a layup at the buzzer, but the ball fell off the rim.

Clay County was in the lead once again at 5:28 in the

fourth after Jackson stole from Smoot and passed the ball long to Reid who scored a short jumper.

Fouling Nicholas after making a basket had become a habit for Clay at this point in the game.

Reid racked up her third foul of the game at 5:32 against Smoot. Smoot, in turn, connected twice from the charity stripe.

By 5:53 in the quarter, Reid received her fourth foul for pushing Smoot while Smoot attempted a layup. Smoot again connected twice from the line.

At 3:17, Dezarn received her fourth foul, and Smoot walked up to the line again. She made a basket at the line for a Jackets' lead of 28-27.

Denkins received one of her four personal fouls of the game at 3:10 and sent Dezarn to the line, but Dezarn wasn't successful.

At 1:54, Smoot went to the line once again as yet another Clay player, Angie Sandlin, received her fourth foul of the game. Smoot, once again, connected twice from the line for a 30-27 lead.

At 1:26, Denkins shot two-for-two at the line as Clay's

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**You Have A Page In The History Books, Lady Jackets! Your Championship Season Will Be Remembered Always. Congratulations!**

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