



Senior Bluejackets - Front row, left to right - Nick Pope, Jerry Watkins, Pat Baker. Back row, left to right - Ronald Newby, John Gilbert, Nate McGuffey, Keith Fryman

## Go Bluejackets! We're Proud Of YOU!

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## Greg Letcher, NCHS head coach, offers insights

By Heather Mathes-Harris  
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

**CARLISLE** — Greg Letcher, Nicholas County High School Head Football Coach, offered valuable insights as to Nicholas County's "playability" during the countdown to kickoff for the Bluejackets' first game on their home field Friday.

"We expect to improve on last year's record of three and seven, all the teams in our district look good, they play tough, but I believe we can compete on the same level. We have the same chance because we are well matched," Letcher said.

The head coach also had some comments on the upcoming game.

"We have not played Fleming County for two years, so this will be the first time we'd be meeting them in a while," Letcher said.

"Ted Purcell (Fleming County head coach) always has a pretty good team, I anticipate it will be a great game for the fans."

When commenting on the offensive line, Letcher said Nicholas County would concentrate on integrating a running and passing game to provide more clear cut efficiency.

"We want to be able to control the ball while not depending completely on the passing game," Letcher said.

"Our goal is to accomplish at least five to six yards a carry. We go pretty deep in our backfield, several players on this team can run the football and we've got a better overall team spread."

"Several of our plays contain sweeps and reverses. This is a thinking ball club, we've worked on getting these plays down and we're going to be ready."

"When Letcher spoke of his defensive line he stressed the goal of containment."

"Defensively we've got to contain the opposition. We've got to stop them in their tracks, that is our goal," Letcher said.

We've got a great class of seniors...and we will be looking for quite a lot of leadership from these individuals.

The Bluejackets lost eight seniors last year, and have seven on the line this year.

Those seniors include Nate McGuffey, Nick Pope, Patrick Baker, Jerry Wayne Watkins, Ronald Newby and John Gilbert and Keith Fryman.

"We've got a great class of seniors this year, we'll be expecting a lot out of them. They will have to play both sides of the line of scrimmage so we will be looking for quite a lot of leadership from these individuals," Letcher said.

Freshman Bluejackets will also be carrying a load of responsibility for Nicholas County.

"We have a lot of upcoming talent. The 11 freshmen and five sophomores must play on the varsity level. We've also got a good class of juniors," Letcher said.

"We don't really have that many players so we are going to be looking to everyone for a fair amount of contribution, we've got the talent, so if we can play like a team and implement the fundamentals we can be on top."

Letcher said his assistant coaching staff composed of Robert Hopkins, Chris O'Hearn, Gary Williams, Jack Hayes, is an invaluable part of the program.

"These assistant coaches have been with us for two to three years, so they understand the program more and can teach more. They have provided a great learning envi-

ronment for the players as well as myself," Letcher said.

According to Letcher, the whole Nicholas County Football Team appreciates the great community support they have received in the past.

"Our support in this community has been unlimited, both at the games and in the form of donations. Without them we could not have a quality program," Letcher said.

"And the school administration has stood behind us at every turn, I really can't say enough about what they have done for us."

The Nicholas County Football season officially begins on Friday when the Bluejackets square off against Fleming County on Nicholas' home field, kickoff is at 8 p.m.

**Good Luck  
Jackets!**



Compliments of  
**Mr. & Mrs.  
Billy G. Hopkins**

Best Wishes For  
A Winning Season



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