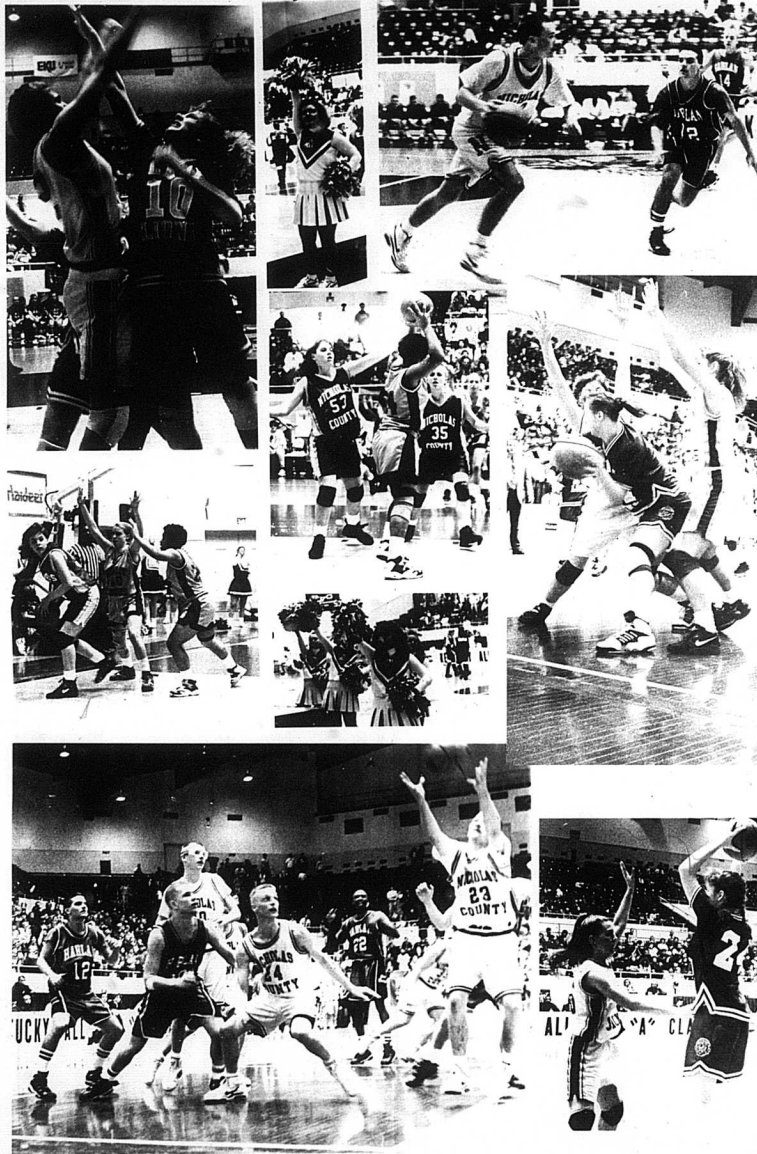


Nicholas County teams make mark on State All A

•Lady Jackets and Blue Jackets in action•



Green Dragons barely scrape past Bluejackets

By Heather Mathes-Harris
OF THE CARLISLE MERCURY STAFF

Heartbeat.....

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deep on Denkins to shut down the inside.

However, foul shots made by Hopkins and Schanding in crunch time kept Nicholas County hanging in the finals game.

Near the end of the first quarter, Atzinger cut to Schultz on the fast break and sealed in a four-point lead over the Lady Jackets, 16-12.

In the second quarter, Denkins hammered the boards and came up with a tie, 16 all at 4:58 to play.

But Holy Cross yanked back control with a steal by Taylor who took it straight to the basket and pulled up in the lane for a short jumper.

But Alicia Sibert handed the lead back to Nicholas County with a perfectly executed three pointer, 19-18 with 1:41 left in the second quarter.

Although Holy Cross fought back for control, the Lady Jackets held the ball, setting up the screen for rebounding. The ball was forced out of bounds and Nicholas County had to be content with a desperation shot from Hopkins scored on an in-bounds play, Nicholas down one, 21-22.

After the half, Nicholas County had to go into third quarter play without its big center, Denkins.

Denkins apparently collapsed before the Lady Jackets entered the gym.

"We had to make a lineup change right before our team went out on the floor. The other players were not really aware of what was going on, and we were concerned about her [Denkins] condition," Kenney said.

Bluejackets in the opening round of the State All A Classic in Richmond last Thursday, 48-47.

When performing for a crowd of 7,000, many thought that play was gone and Taylor dialed off the wing to Schultz for two.

Nicholas County rallied with a baseline jumper from Sibert, but Louisville came right back with a 10-foot shot from Taylor.

At halfcourt, Atzinger got a hand on the pass and scored a quick lay-up, sending Holy Cross up 26-23 with 5:01 to play in the third.

Nicholas County called a timeout to regroup.

At the opening of the fourth quarter, Holy Cross was again in control with a steal by Taylor who took it straight to the basket and pulled up in the lane for a short jumper.

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central NCAA college signee for history.

But Nicholas County's defense was organized and effective.

With baskets on both ends, Denkins went back in and Nicholas County was on its feet.

Holy Cross Amy Maupin was knocked unconscious in a scrap for the jumpball and the gym's temp went up about another 10 degrees.

The Lady Jackets went on a scoring run with Denkins and Sibert playing the string music.

With three seconds to play Holy Cross Schultz took it down to the wire and tied it up 30 all.

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ively shut down Thomas to 18 points, much less than his game average.

Harlan, the eventual State All A Champ, forced down small Denkins was fouled by Schultz and she went two for two at the stripe.

Although Denkins and Hopkins continued to scrap underneath the basket for rebounds, Hopkins committed her third foul.

George got a hand in on a three point attempt by Dillard and Denkins missed, but hit on the putback.

Holy Cross went to the fast break and it was Schultz again who scored after being assisted by Taylor—34 all with 3:46 left to play in the game.

The finals game was approaching the wire, but still the win was not totally in Holy Cross hands even though the Louisville team was ahead 38-35 after Atzinger hit two at the charity stripe with 15 seconds left.

With Nicholas County in possession, George apparently dribbled on the sideline—Holy Cross ball, Sibert fouled Taylor but Taylor choked and failed to hit from the line in crunch time in order to hand Holy Cross the assured win.

George snags the rebound. Three seconds of play left in the game.

Schanding makes the save after George passes to her and hits to Tawerna Livingston.

Sibert sinks the three-pointer and the moment is frozen in time interrupted only the sound of the buzzer—one moment too late.

Although injured, Denkins racked up a leading point total of 16. Hopkins followed with nine, Sibert, eight and Schanding had two.

school giant University Heights in the finals—and in that game Thomas scored 27 points in the first half alone.

Nicholas County's near miss came on a questionable five second count which turned the ball back over to Harlan in the first eight seconds of the game.

Up to that point, the Bluejackets were behind but one point in the first quarter, 21-22, and tied 26 all for the half.

"We did believe that five second count was very quick. And once we watched the film we knew it was," Head Coach Chris O'Hearn said.

"We did get a couple of bad breaks in the end but overall we played excellent and executed well until the end.

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to their potential and I think we had something to do with that. We interrupted them and kept them from getting into the flow of the game while flowing smoothly on the offensive end.

Mark Adams played the off-ensive end of the court like a drum, racking up 11 points total, including one three pointer.

Bradley Brown and Brad Brown both went up with nine points. Israel Stacy and John Trussell followed with seven points and Brad Burden had four.

Nicholas County also led in defensive rebounds, pulling down 23 to Harlan's 13.

But in the end of Nicholas County's tie to its performance with Harlan, it was the Green Dragons who triumphed, holding the ball but last five seconds.

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