Nicholas delivers KO to Ludlow

By Heather Mathes-Harris
Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff

CARLISLE - The Lady Jackets of Nicholas County delivered a big KO to the Lady Panthers of Ludlow Saturday night, 91 - 29.

Nicholas County quickly shut down Ludlow, racking up a quick 20 points to the Lady Panthers' deficit mid - way through the first quarter.

Kim Denkins threw up the first points for Nicholas, stripping away an offensive rebound and laying up a quick put - back.

Tara George hassled Ludlowe's point, Beth Stultz, as she took that first over the half - court line and forcing a double dribble.

George flipped the pass to Michella Hopkins, who pulled up in the lane for a short jumper.

On the defensive end, the awesome force of Denkins on the inside caused numerous air balls, one of which was snagged by Elizabeth Schanding who dished to Hopkins. Hopkins, covered by Carrie Brewer and Carrie Hatter, shot undaunted, and sank the jumper in the lane.

Down 24-0, Ludlow called time - out.

Back in the game, Jennifer Willoughby was fouled in the lane by Hatter and went one for one at the stripe.

Ludlow hopped out of its shooting slump after Taryn Pence was fouled by Melanie Jones and sank both her free throws.

At the first quarter buzzer, Stoltz stepped up and shot a three pointer which rattled in, 24 - 5.

In the second quarter, the Lady Panthers dug in and capitalized at the line, Nicole Kidd hitting two for two.

George continued on her run and gun defense, stealing from Kidd twice, on the first play delivering the goods right to the basket and on the second, drawing the blocking foul.

With 2:22 to play Nicholas drew ahead for the wide margin, up 33 - 7.

On the return end, Kidd handed off to Megan Brown who fenced off at the outside mark for a deuce.

Denkins returned the favor, hammering in an outside ten footer.

Jones scored the last two for Nicholas at the close of the half after being fouled on the attempted inside shot, 42 - 9.

An unblinking Hopkins delivered from the perimeter, not once, but twice, seeking and discovering her niche at the three point mark.

Ludlow's basket continued to reject shots and Schanding pulled up short in the lane for an added two.

Denkins followed suit landing yet another basket, Nicholas up 61 - 9.

Rebecca McGlothin entered play and sank a three pointer right off the bat.

Although the Lady Jackets attack mode b-ball continued to plague the Ludlow offense, Kidd pulled respect from the perimeter with a trey all her own.

The last points of the third quarter were landed by Stultz from the line after being fouled by Jones, Nicholas pulls away, 69 - 17.

For a brief period in the fourth, Nicholas' basket seemed sealed against shots, but with 5-44 to play, Denkins cracked it open with a put - back shot underneath the goal.

Pence was fouled by Schanding and went two for two at the line, and to its credit, Ludlow still hung in there.

Shasta McNabb entered play and fouled Stoltz while implementing the press at the three point mark. Stoltz went one for three at the line.

On the offensive end of the plan, Pence tried for the save on the baseline, but Hopkins leapt into the path of the pass and dished to Tawyna Livingood. Livingood lobbed back to Hopkins who sunk the textbook two.

Livingood and Hopkins teamed up again after Livingood was fouled by Stoltz. She sank the front end of the bonus, but rimmed the second, giving Hopkins the chance for the put-back, turning one additional point into two.

Hatter jumped in for Ludlow, hitting a sweet jumper from the key with 1:22 to play.

With less than a minute to play, Rebecca Jolly caused a walking violation on Tonya Unkraut and hit a three pointer on the return.

After McNabb burnurshed the lane and sent up another two, Ludlow called timeout with 1:06 to play.

UnKraut placed Ludlowe's final points on the board with two consecutive shots, Nicholas the determined winner in this contest, 91 - 29.

On the scoring end, Hopkins had a career high of 31 points, Denkins followed with 25. Scoring from there was split between Jones with seven; George and McNabb, six; McGlothin and Schanding, five; Jolly, three; Livingood, two; and Willoughby, one.

The Carlisle Mercury/Heather Mathes Harris Photo

Rebecca McGlothin creates a jumpball situation in Nicholas County's favor during the last few mintues of the Lady Jackets' game with Berea.

Miss Basketball candidate carries Nicholas County to win over Russell

By Mason Branham
For The Carlisle Mercury

FLATWOODS — Miss Basketball candidate Kim Denkins of defending state champion Nicholas County proved to be too much for Russell to handle Friday, February 18.

With Denkins scoring 28 points and ripping down 14 rebounds the visiting Lady Jackets rolled to a 51-28 victory.

Russell's Allison Osborn was not awed in the early going. The senior single-handled kept the Lady Devils in the game through the first quarter.

Osborn scored all eight Russell points in the opening stanza. Her steal and bucket had the Lady Devils within a point at 9-8. However, Osborn picked up her second foul late in the quarter and sat out the rest of the half.

However, Denkins scored from inside and then hit two free throws with three seconds left in the period for a 13-8 lead.

The Lady Devils moved within at 15-12 early in the second quarter as Sabrina Lynch got the basketball inside to Mandy Myers for a basket.

However, Russell did not score again in the half. Denkins had a pair of put backs and Jennifer Willoughby stole the basketball and scored to increase the Nicholas County lead before Denkins went to bench with 4:06 left in the half. Denkins had picked up her second foul almost four minutes earlier, but continued to play.

Melanie Jones of Nicholas County scored the only four points over the final four minutes of the half as Nicholas County went up 25-12.

The third quarter was like watchine paint dry as neither team could generate any offense.

The teams divided six points in the frame to go to the fourth quarter with Nicholas County holding a 28-15 lead.

The lead was still 13 after Holly Reed canned a pair of Russell free throws with 4:34 left.

The Lady Jackets put the game away over the next 50 seconds. Jones and Tawnya Livingood had baskets for the visitors and Denkins added a three-point play as the lead ballooned to 20.

Nicholas County closed out the contest with a 7-2 run to set the final margin.

After all the time on the bench, Osborn was never a factor in the Russell offense in the second half. Osborn had just three shots from the field in the second half. Her only bucket came with 46 seconds left in the contest.

The loss ended a five-game winning streak for Russell (10-10). Denkins, who has signed to play at the University of Kentucky, led Nicholas County to its 20th win against five losses.

NCHS	13	12	3	23 51
RHS	8	4	3	13 28

Nicholas Co. (51) - Denkins 28, George 4, T. Livingood 4, Willoughby 4, Jones 4, Hopkins 6, D. Livingood.

Lady Devils (28) - Osborn 13, Lynch 3, Hensley 4, Reed 6, Myers 2.

Jackets drop heartbreaker

Carlisle - The Nicholas County Bluejackets dropped a heartbreaker to the Saints of Maysville St. Patrick Tuesday evening, 74 - 72.

Nicholas County must have watched the definitive game fifteen comebacks (which UK wrote, after coming back from 31 down to beat LSU) before the team entered game play. In other words, Leads switched more often - and more dramatically - than most people change socks.

For the opening shots of the game, Israel Stacy and Mark Adams hit the boards - in scoring and on the rebounding end of play.

However, at the end of the first quarter, Nicholas was down, 22 - 11.

John Brown continued his hassle forwards Brian Turker and Previs Kirk while Stacy concentrated on the point and Adams broke down in the lane.

Going into the half, Nicholas cut the Saint Pat lead, 36 - 25.

The third quarter was the telling quarter for Nicholas as the Bluejackets gained momentum, tying and even overtaking the Saints at times. The third quarter saw Nicholas down by only one point, 47 - 46.

With three consecutive baskets by Stacy, Nicholas went up 57 - 56 with 4:46 to play. Brad Brown sunk a three pointer. But in crunch time Nicholas went down to the Saints, John Brown battling to the last one second tick left on the clock.

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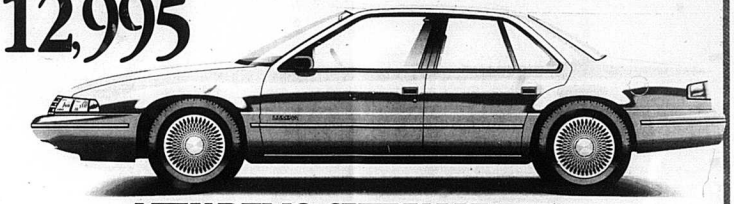
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