

1994 Girls' All "A" Regional Tournament Preview

Recap

Continued on Page 5
 Webster County game were: Denkins, 12 points; Liville, 17 points; Smoot, 12 points; Schandling, two points.
 Parents and grandparents were formally recognized during the Lady Jackets win over Knott Central - Nicholas County's second win over the team in the same season.

Denkins hit the high point in scoring again with 16 points. Congressman Jim LeMaster passed a resolution in the House of Representatives last week honoring the Nicholas County High School Lady Jackets All A Classic Championship win.

Resuming regular schedule play, the Lady Jackets beat the Heron Lady Pirates by a 50 point margin and defeated the four-team County Lady Colonels, 61-41.

During the first of March, the Lady Jackets won the 37th District Tournament for the third time in history last Friday night at Bourbon County High School. At this point, Nicholas County boasted a 20-2 record.

In the finals of the district, Nicholas County wiped out the Harroton County Thunderbirds, 66-31.

In the region, the Lady Saints of Mayesville were downed by Nicholas County 64-44. Denkins finished with 18 points for the night and other members of the team played remarkably well even though Louisville, Smoot and Heat Coach Kenney were ill. Virtually everyone contributed to the scoring book, including: Hutton, 25; Smoot, 10; Schandling, four; Michella Hopkins, 10; Tawnya Livingston, nine; Jennifer Willoughby, four; Alexis Sibert, three; Melanie

June, two; Tara George, three; Tina Poyman, three points.

The Lady Jackets took home a 100 Region Win after ridding over the Harrison County Fil

lies and advanced the first round of the Sweet Sixteen Tournament at the Frankfort Civic Center.

"I started this program in 1974," said Barbara Kenney after receiving the 10th Region's Coach's Award for Outstanding Leadership. "We've come from being ranked lowest to being one of the top teams in the state. These kids are so determined. I think when we go out and play somebody, I think, we can win this."

And win they did. First the Nicholas County wonder team took down Whitesburg, 61-47.

The Lady Yellow Jackets went down early as the Lady Jackets pressured Whitesburg's young players with years of experience and a cutting defense.

Although much of the offensive work was left up to the other players, since Denkins was being double teamed, Nicholas County's point guards and power forwards were up for the challenge.

In the final two seconds of the game, Tawnya Livingston buried a phenomenal shot from deep, way deep perimeter.

Nicholas County's dream avenue to the state championship continued with a win in the quarter finals against Calloway County, 49-41. Although the Lady Lakers put up an impressive fight, the Lady Jackets provided a team effort impossible to surmount.

Scoring was spread among the Nicholas County team. Denkins

took home a big 26 points, two assists and 12 rebounds. Smoot also hit the boards in a big way with seven rebounds and five points.

Nicholas County fielded number one ranked Clay County in the semi-finals, much to the Tigerettes dismay, 37-31. Clay County had secured nine Sweet Sixteen appearances and a championship in 1989, but was denied advancement from the quarterfinals by the Lady Jacket team of 1993.

Nicholas County's talent at the line showed as the Lady Jackets went for 73 percent as compared to the Tigerettes 51 percent.

The teams were tied or within a two point margin of each other the entire game until the final quarter. According to Coach Kenney, the secret to Nicholas County's win over Clay County lay in stamina, determination and sportsmanship.

"We told the kids, run them where you can... Clay County is slow - they're big, but they're slow. I thought the kids showed so much patience," Kenney said. Hutton, who was allowed twice in the jaw and was taken to King's Daughters' Hospital, suffered a broken jaw.

With 1:26 left in the game, Clay County's persistent foul trouble enabled Nicholas to capitalize on those mistakes and gain with a five point lead that lead held out for Nicholas County and provided them with the chance to clinch the Sweet Sixteen Championship, the first in the history of Nicholas County.

The jubilation and celebration of the Lady Jackets and fans could be heard all the way back to Nicholas County the

night the champions were crowned queens of the high school b-ball hill in the state of KY.

The saying used to go "Where were you the night the lights went out in Georgia," but from that night on it was more like, "Were you there to support Nicholas County when they brought home the first Sweet Sixteen victory in the history of our county?"

"My mothersays told me good things always come to those who love the Lord... No matter what adversity we faced, they always had the courage and the desire," Kenney said at a community rally held in the Lady Jackets honor.

And desire that championship they did.

The game against Warren East was tough. The game remained close throughout the first and second quarters. But as the Lady Raiders of Warren East prepared to pick up momentum, key players got into foul trouble.

The rest of the game, Nicholas worked strong defense, man to man, full court. Lady Raider Alison Smith picked her way through a back door and discovered a deuce with 15 second remaining - and fans had reason to take up nail biting.

It looked like an overtime match.

But Warren East never could make the big play to take the game into overtime play as folds left the victory in Nicholas County's hands.

And the night which made history all started with a championship in the Regional All A Classic - this year to be hosted at Nicholas County High School.

Perry L. Poe

Auctioneer • Appraiser • Real Estate Broker
We Support All Local Teams!
 P.O. Box 115 - Brooksville, Kentucky 41004
 Phone: (606) 735-3176
 FAX: (606) 735-3103

**GO GET 'EM,
 NICHOLAS COUNTY!**
 Richardson, Smith & Hughes
 Dawn Letcher
 103 West Main Street • 289-6800 • Carlisle

Best Wishes, Deming!
**Robertson County
 Sheriff's Office
 Randy Insko - Sheriff**

Good Luck, Deming!
**Robertson County
 Board Of Education**

Good Luck
Saint Patrick & Tollebergs!
Kachler Auction House
 Real Estate & Appraisal Services
 Four In-Office Certified Appraisers
 1-800-264-6040 • Maylick, KY • FAX (606) 763-6100

**Best Wishes,
 Bracken County!**
**Bracken County
 Sheriff's Department**
**Good Luck,
 Bracken County!**
*Bracken County
 Board Of Education*

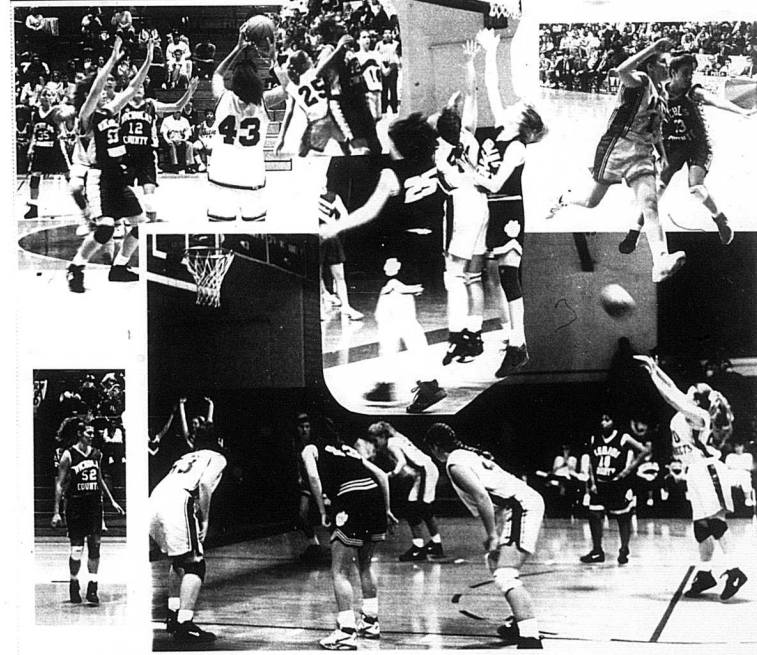
**Wills Real Estate
 Shelter Insurance**
 Larry Wills - Broker • Diana Wills - Appraiser
 222 North Locust Street - Carlisle
 (606) 289-2470

**Good Luck In The
 All A Classic, Nicholas County!**
Clark Funeral Home
 Moorefield, KY
Clark Funeral Chapel
 119 West Main Street, Carlisle

**Good Luck To The Blue Jackets
 And Lady Jackets!**
**NICHOLAS COUNTY
 SHERIFF'S OFFICE**
 Sheriff Charles Ring • Deputy Clyde Miller

1994 Girls' All "A" Regional Tournament Preview

1993 - 1994 Lady Jackets in season play



The Carlisle Memorabilia for Melissa Hume Photo
 Michella Hopkins, left, and Kim Denkins, right, have proved to be a powerful combination underneath the basket this year providing the kind of "top your back" coverage and teamwork needed to make the Nicholas County Lady Jackets a success. Both have provided leadership on the floor and have communicated the winning spirit Kenney has hoped to instill in all her players.