

Blujackets drop in first round

By Jason Hart
OF THE CURET MERCURY STAFF
CARLSILE The Nicholas County Blujackets were knocked out of the Harrison County district by the Harrison County Blujackets in the first round of the district tournament on Tuesday night.

The jackets came down swinging, with Israel Stacy hitting the first two-pointer for Nicholas County at 7:16.

Both teams spent several minutes in the first period feuding over out, then got right down to business.

Harrison County pulled down their first two-point shot, and Jacket Mark Adams rebounded, fed Brad Brown, whose skills faded in the three-point attempt.

At 3:21 in the first, Blujacket John Brown came down with the offensive rebound, broke for some territory, made a mad race to the basket, and made two attempts at the goal before Brad Brown blocked the shot.

Brad Brown went to the line and added two to the tally, and the Blujackets went on to end the period in the hole by 10, at 2:22.

The Blujackets could not keep up with the Thorold's shooting, and the Blujackets and despite their best efforts ended the second period with a deficit of nearly 20 points, 30-26, Harrison County's lead.

Stacy wasted no time in the third period, and went up to 7:47, but by this time the Thorold's figured they had it in the bag.

The Blujackets did not give up, however, and fought all the way to the end of the quarter in the face of a hostile Harrison County crowd and the third period, but it was not to be.

Brad Brown was taken out of the game after a scuffle with a Thorold's player. Harrison was awarded an unearned-of six free throws for Brown's infraction.

The Blujackets kept up a heroic battle in the fourth, but it was not to be.

The Thorold's shattered the Nicholas County hopes with a final score of 96-71.



Israel Stacy, Nicholas County High School senior, pops up on the perimeter to pump one in during the opening game of the district against the Thorold's of Harrison County.

Money is in the bank for MHC renovation project

By Leigh Stone
OF THE CURET MERCURY STAFF
CARLSILE The bond sale covering \$1.5 million of the Johnson Matthers Nursing Home renovation project was finalized Wednesday, March 2.

The announcement was made by Johnson Matthers Health Care Administrator Dan Miller. "Essentially, the money is in the bank," said Johnson Matthers Health Care Public Relations Manager Jack Shephard.

The total project amount is \$2.2 million with the bond sale covering \$1.5 million. Johnson Matthers Health Care will provide the rest of the estimated \$650,000.

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court made it possible for the project to obtain a lower interest rate than usual, a variable rate of six to eight percent for a 20-year period.

Without the fiscal court, the rate would have been higher. Residents can look forward to

"We've got a very good interest rate, comparable to what the schools get through the state," Shephard said. "We wouldn't have embarked on the project if financing weren't strong," Shephard said.

Nicholas money is being utilized for the modernization project, Shephard said. The 25-bed facility was built in 1965.

Construction began December 1993 with an another estimated 18 months for completion. Sherrod Services Inc. of Winchester is the general contractor and Rene Bank of Nicholas County is the project architect.

The facility will provide 31 new nursing home beds to replace 31 old ones. Eleven thousand square feet of foundation has been laid already.

"It will look like a brand new nursing home. It will not look like the same," Shephard stated.

Without the fiscal court, the rate would have been higher. Residents can look forward to

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Nicholas delivers KO to Harrison

By Heather Mathes-Harris
OF THE CURET MERCURY STAFF
CYNTHIANA The Nicholas County Lady Jackets turned out to be the favorites for the first round of district play, intent on a win over Harrison County and come back with a victory, and a win in the playoffs, 54-38.

"I don't think it was a matter of being hungrier for the win," Nicholas County just a better team," Barbara Kenny, Nicholas County Head Coach, said. "I know Coach Larry Allison was looking to this season last year, and there was a lot of talk about Harrison County being the favorite when they beat us at home earlier in the year when we were down."

But the basket was not good as Boyers walked her way to the hole.

Harrison's Whitaker put up the Thorold's first points of the game, with a shot from the perimeter. The only shot she would sink all first half.

On the return, Tara George saw the opening and popped it in. Dekins who forcefully whipped in a basket over the top of the big center Perry.

Allison took control at the point, but threw a way on a bad pass to Boyers at the baseline.

Senior Silbert capitalized on turnover, schooling Harrison at the point for a three pointer, Nicholas County leading, 7-2, 5:20 to play in the first quarter.

Terrill Beth Brunker, also an excellent three pointer shooter, answered with three of her own Harrison pulls within two.

Under pressure for the basket, Nicholas County commits a charging foul and turned possession back over to Harrison.

But Tara George, alias Speedy Gonzales helped the team to an on and off the floor and the hole.

Nicholas County's other star shooter, Noelle Whitaker, got a hold of two points.

At the opening of the game, Dekins hit the big tip to Elizabeth Schanding at the court.

Although Mary Beth Munz tried to steal, she walked on the ground and Alicia Silbert, Nicholas County back up, tried to penetrate Harrison's defense, which concentrated hard on the low post. George backed out and pulled up short, answered by two of her own,

Although Schanding would steal on the next play, the ball was turned back to Harrison on a walking foul. Allison took advantage when the side turned and scored her one three pointer for the night and brought the Filles within one.

However, an undaunted Schanding would set up at the top of the key and threw one home for the Lady Jackets.

Boyers scored once again for Harrison, and after a foul, had the opportunity to take the lead, but three that opportunity away on a bad pass to the baseline.

With 11 seconds left in the first quarter, the Lady Jackets kept cool heads and when George saw the opportunity to take control for Nicholas, she popped up with an under control shot from the perimeter, 17-14.

At the opening of the second, Dekins battled her way to the basket to sink it two.

Although Boyers would answer once more, a heavily guarded Hopkins pulled down on the baseline and earned a basket.

With 1:42 to play, Nicholas was up by five, 25-20.

At an oddball shot by Boyers and a put back by April Gaines after Brunker missed, Harrison County pulled within one.

After a three seconds call on Nicholas in the lane, Harrison County had the chance to take control but the Lady Jackets poured on an aggressive zone defense and shut down the Filles' scoring capabilities, score stood at 25-24 at the half.

"At the half we went to

pulling the Filles within four, 25-21.

As the fourth quarter opened up play, Silbert committed a foul, April Gaines hit both ends of the bonus.

Gaines also hit the last two of the game for Harrison at the line after being fouled by Hopkins.

Melanie Jones drove the final nail into the win for Nicholas with rebounds to play after she was fouled by Brunker. Nicholas' top of Harrison by a wider than predicted margin, 54-38.

"I don't think you can say enough about how this team played together. They had practiced well all week and it really came together," Kenny said.

Most of the rest of the game was called from the foul line.

George was fouled by Brunker and sank two from the stripe. Hopkins was then fouled by Monte and followed with two for her own.

The Filles' shots continued to refuse to fall on both Whitaker and Brunker tried to capitalize at the hoop and failed after the game in two more at the line. Harrison called another timeout.

Allison told Silbert during a desperate attempt to gain possession and Silbert threw up two more to send Nicholas up on Harrison, 47-32 with two minutes left to play.

Harrison County still could not answer with a basket.

However, Hopkins was fouled by Brunker on an attempted shot and stood in for an added two points.

Hopkins took a double take and repeated the performance with 53 seconds left to play - sinking a 10 foot jumper and -ch 39% - drawing a foul on Boyers.

But Boyers came through for Harrison on the return, scoring in the final four seconds and



John Dekins, center for the Nicholas County Lady Jackets, pockets points in the paint even though Bourbon County's Charly Fryman, Molly Hatterick and Carol Lucy stacked three deep in the lane.

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