

## Nicholas County Youth Football sees second year

By Leigh Stone

**OF THE Carlisle Mercury Staff**  
**CARLISLE**—A couple of years ago, a half dozen energetic football loving pigskin hugging elementary and youngsters from Nicholas County headed to Paris to play football at the YMCA.

Last year, the Nicholas County Youth Football program grew from that interest.

More than 70 ball players, third and fourth graders and fifth and sixth graders, formed the teams known as the Dolphins, the Blue Jets (the fifth and sixth grade team) and the Saints and the Vikings (the third and fourth grade teams).

This week they've been stretching and running. At least it gets the Nintendo out of their hands, laughed Youth Football Coach Mitch Harmon at the ballfield between the elementary and high school last Thursday evening.

"Coach, when can I give you my number? I'll forget it if you don't let me tell you now," claimed a white helmeted football player with a blue uniform and white pants.

The number selected was 22. "That's the number of your favorite Cowboy," understood the coach.

So far, more than 60 youngsters have been at practice this season.

Harmon and his wife, Darlene, are the parents of two sons, Jeremy, 12, the oldest son, played in the youth program last year. Kyle, 9, is playing this year.

Originally from Beth County, Harmon played football in grades five through eighth and high school, too. "You get your ideas from what you remember your old coaches making you do. You remember a lot of what you did plus you add a little," he admitted.

The Nicholas County Youth Football Program has several dedicated coaches - almost all are parents or grandparents.

Coaches for the Dolphins are Tony Fryman, Matt Hughes and Billy Minton.

Coaches for the Blue Jets are Kimball Booth, who used to coach Nicholas County Varsity ball, and Junior Terrell and Dugan Kelly.

Viking Coaches are Dennis Dotson and Mitch Harmon. Saints Coaches are Greg "Mo" Rawlings and Lauren Eads.

The work that went into creating the football club was remarkable. First, it required interest from the kids. Next, it entailed patience and chauffeur service from the parents. Last but not least by any means, it took money.

Elementary School Site Based Decision Making Council Parent Member Jim Galbraith and Larry Trussell knocked on doors and made many telephone calls to local businesses and community members asking for help.

The hat they passed came back with \$8,500 - enough to start the

season last year.

"The people in Nicholas County were great," Harmon said. Additionally, the team players got involved in the financial end of their fun. "We had a fund-raiser and the kids sold items. Some of that money carried over to this year," Harmon said.

Lucky for the parents, the donations and fund-raiser made it possible for everything except pants and spikes to be provided.

That's good considering the helmet and shoulder pads cost \$120 per player, Harmon mentioned.

The season will last about eight weeks, one game a week. The last game for the fifth and sixth graders will be at Morehead State University.

Practice began Aug. 22 and lasts almost two hours three nights a week.

"The discipline is what they get more than anything. Football requires players to be in better physical shape than even basketball. Other sports don't depend on you being in good shape, but in football, to be good, you have to be. Or you won't make it," warned Harmon.

Last week's practice schedule meant stretching, running and giving the coach those last two modified sit-ups.

Harmon is optimistic the interest in youth football will remain. "They had it in the 60s. Then the kids lost interest."

Across the field Coach Kimball Booth directed the Blue Jets.

"There's people in Carlisle who used to play for Coach Booth. Ask about anybody. He's good. We've got a lot of good coaches," Harmon evaluated.

The players are pretty good themselves.



**Good Luck This Season, Bluejackets!**



This Ad is about as wide as the goal line.

Something we hope your team crosses many times.



**McDonald's Restaurant**  
 3999 Lexington Road  
 Paris, KY  
 (606) 987-6115

What you want is what you get. Guaranteed.

**FOOTBALL FANS: CATCH OUR 2-FOR-1**

# SPAGHETTI SPECIAL



Here's a dinner special to cheer about! For just \$4.45, two can enjoy our hearty Spaghetti Dinner-complete with dinner salad and grilled bread. Why not stop by after the game-Jerry's 2-for-1 Special is waiting for you.

-----WITH COUPON-----  
**2-FOR-1 SPAGHETTI DINNER**  
 Buy one at the regular price of \$4.45, get one free. Dining room customers only. Offer good any Saturday, Sunday, or Monday during football season-through October 26, 1994.

Offer Good Only at Jerry's Of Mt. Sterling, KY

**Jerry's RESTAURANT**

*We Serve You Right!*

## HOORAY FOR FOOTBALL



The Dolphins, Blue Jets and Saints youth football teams at Nicholas County Elementary School, love this year's Youth Football program. Front (l-r): Jason Jesse, Kyle Reeder, Darin Harrington, Jeffrey Dunn, Josh Minton, Steven Minton, Rodney Trussell. Standing (l-r): Tony Fryman, Dustin Hill, Ryan Hunter, Micah Mitchell, Jacob Broderick, Jeremy Dunn, Dennis Dotson. Back row (l-r): Coaches Matt Hughes, Tony Fryman and Billy Minton.



The Vikings and Saints, third and fourth graders at Nicholas County Elementary, are ready for a great Youth Football season! Front (l-r): B. D. Sexton, Justin Tizbes, Chad Dotson, Kyle Harmon, Tristan Harris, Dustin Clark, Nate Shul, Chas Coker, Ben Jefferson, Keith Hunter and Damon Jackson. Second row (l-r): Chris Howard, McKenzie Willoughby, Adam Hunter, Michael Eads, Brandon Hepkins, Justin Rawlings, Alton Cobb, Charles Kickador, Roger Trussell, Josh Gray, Michael Cokerman, Clifton Riggs and Michael Feedback. Back row (l-r): Coaches Dennis Dotson, Loren Eads, "Mo" Rawlings and Mitch Harmon.

**TRACKS RESTAURANT**  
 5322 Concrete Road • Carlisle, KY  
 (606) 289-5464  
 Conveniently Located Across From Bluejacket Field — Stop In And See Us After The Game!  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

**HOPKINS DRUG**  
 116 East Main Street • Carlisle, KY  
 (606) 289-2274  
 We Support The **BLUEJACKETS!**

**WOODY'S**  
 Auto Repair • Body Shop  
 Mark Hughes, Owner  
 Upper Jackstown Road • Carlisle, KY  
 (606) 289-7226  
**Go For It, Bluejackets!**

**Dee Jay Auto Parts**  
 340 West Main Street • Carlisle  
 (606) 289-2208  
**WE'RE ROOTING FOR YOU, BLUEJACKETS!**