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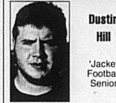
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Student Viewpoint



Dustin Hill
"Jacket Football Senior"

'Back on track...'

Editor's Note: In each issue of *The Carlisle Mercury* this fall sport season, a senior on Head Coach Greg Letcher's Blue Jacket football team will be acting as a student writer and providing a column for the sports page. The student's commentary is provided by senior running back/linebacker Dustin Hill.

The Ludlow game was a great confidence builder for us and a great win! We came out and basically dominated the whole game from start to finish. The momentum we gained with this victory will hopefully carry us to another district title.

To win the district this year, we must first get through the Fairview Eagles this Friday.

Although Fairview is not as powerful a team as Fleming County was, they cannot be overlooked. We, as a team, must play hard and be ready — because any team can beat anybody on a given night!

The main objective of our whole season is to win the district championship and to get a 'W' in the school's first playoff game.

This goal, in my opinion, is very reachable if we stay hard!

Subscribe Today!

'Loving the line...'

Without question, the one utterance that I hear coming from stands and sidelines at high school football games is that one that hits home the most — "Come on, line. Block somebody!"

As a former lineman, that phrase sounds like nails on a chalkboard to me, even as I snap pictures and scribble notes as a sportswriter — years after I was the subject of that verbal assault!

Think about it. At every game, if the quarterback gets sacked, it's what you hear from some idiot in the front row, a self-proclaimed expert on the game but an all-proclaimed loud mouth. And from the sidelines, if a back gets met at the line by a defensive lineman and stuffed backwards, those waiting their moments of glory are the first to scream it — "Come on, line, block somebody!"

And to be honest, it gets me off!

Now, having been a center for several years and way to many hits, I know that there are on occasion, instances where the line may miss a block or two. And the results are usually — turfing experiences for the QB or the "back."

But, name me any other position in the game that gets HIT ON EVERY PLAY OF EVERY GAME! A receiver may have to bump into a defender on a pass route and a running back may have to try



Photo courtesy of Memories & More Sports Editor
Senior quarterback Josh Fryman gets through the Panther defense at Ludlow Friday.

BIG WIN from front

The opening snap to start the scoring assault that ended in a 49-0 Jacket celebration. When the dust settled, Nicholas County's offense had amassed the shutout while the Jacket defense was stung, allowing the hosts just 27 total yards offense!

"We played well and had a couple of red hot plays early," Letcher told *The Carlisle Mercury*. "Those plays just set the tone early

Before the end of the first quarter, junior back Josh Hunt steam-rolled the Panther defense on a 24-yard run into the endzone. Fryman connected with junior Richard Reid on the two-point conversion.

"We just wanted to go out and play hard," Hill said of the shutout performance. "It was good to get our confidence back."

The visiting Jackets (4-1) doubled their opening quarter period by socking it to the scoreboard as well as Ludlow in the second — adding another 28 points for their first-half tally of 42.

Hill galloped 81 yards and Saunders returned a Panther punt for a 73-yard dash to the endzone. Reid crossed the goal line on a six-yard trot and junior back Darrin Herrington punched it in from three yards out. Those TDs and four extra-point kicks by Fryman made it too much for the visitors and hanging heads by the hosts.

"They were 0-3 coming in and they were looking at this game to get a victory," Letcher said of Ludlow's pregame hopes. "We came out and scored on that opening play."

In the third quarter, sophomore Kyle Harmon went on a 15-yard sprint to paydirt for the final Nicholas County score of the massacre. Fryman's kick gave the game its final, 49-0. Both teams played scoreless in the final period — no matter, the lights on the field needed a break!

Fletcher said these past games have been important for linemen in postseason hopes, but the Jackets' district opener against Fairview tomorrow (Friday) night is where it starts to count.

"Every game you play is important," the

Sports

In romp over Rowan, 'Jacket freshmen know their football'

NCHS gets six TDs in 48-13 win

By DENVER BROWN
Sports Editor

If the underclassmen are to use games as practice in learning the ropes as they prepare for their days on the varsity field, the Nicholas County freshmen football Blue Jackets proved they were well on their way in the athletic classroom with a 48-13 schooling of the Rowan County Vikings in Carlisle last Thursday.

Just seconds after Jacket captain Jeremy Hill and Michael Ockerman called the coin flip, Nicholas County's Travis Daisey recovered a misplayed handoff in the Viking backfield to start the boys in blue on their winning path.

The teams traded fumbles (still learning, remember?) before the hosts got on the board late in the first quarter, 7-0, and with Rowan County trying a first and 10 from their own one-yard line, Jacket back Justin Tubbs stuffed the Rowan County ball carrier, stripped the ball and waited in for the take-away score.

Sam Reid went in for the two-point conversion off

quarterback Ryne Breen's handoff.

"Coach wants us to learn the offense, the one the varsity plays," Breen told *The Carlisle Mercury*. "And he wants us to learn to be winners, showing good sportsmanship and being able to win football games."

The learning continued — in the Jackets' favor.

Fleming County tied again from their own 27, but defensive pressure and a Viking penalty made it third down and a late tackle in the Rowan backfield by Daisey and Kyle Prie, it was fourth and a lot more.

The Jackets blocked a punt and recovered the loose ball in the endzone for two more points, 10-0.

Tubbs added another score at 4:09 in the second quarter

on a 52-yard jaunt. Breen's flat pass to Daisey gave the Jackets... the two-point attempt. After nothing by the Vikings on their next try with the ball, Doug Hall's big gain run set up another Nicholas County score. Hall's appearance in the conversion made it 14-0.

"They've built a really good program here at Nicholas County," Rowan County freshman coach Denny Brown said. "Coach Letcher has done a great job getting the kids into football and getting them to stay with it — they played good ball."

Hill escaped a boot-look of Vikings at just after halftime for 32-0 and Ockerman went in untouched for the conversion. A few ticks off the clock later another blow intercepted — Viking quarterback Jeff Ferguson and barreled down close to the



Denver Brown photo
Justin Tubbs on take-away TD run.

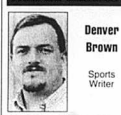
Ockerman added another touchdown on a 41-yard run in the fourth quarter before the visiting Vikings picked up a pair of scores to finish the game, 48-13.

"Mainly we were just working on moving the football," Letcher said. "Linemen Chad Garrett said 'And we worked on our special teams and just doing our jobs — we just wanted to go out and not make jobs, and learn."

Lesson learned!"

The freshmen squad (made up of underclassmen, not just freshmen) travel to Lewis County on Monday, Oct. 9 to try and tame the Lions and they host the Wildcats of Bath County on Monday, Oct. 16.

From the Sidelines



Denver Brown
Sports Writer

think the line doesn't do anything to protect you? Fine. Try it on your own. Line up, run the play and try for yards — all without those big butts to get behind! It won't work now and it didn't then. But my teammates eased up and they learned a new respect for their protectors.

We may miss a block now and then and the QB might land on his backside and the backs and receivers might have to bruise those well-skilled bodies — but at least it won't be ON EVERY PLAY!

See you at the game!



Denver Brown photo
Nicholas County linemen bust helmets.

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