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SPORTS

WIN
Continued from Page 21

throws and a running jumper in the lane in the closing seconds to cut Nicholas County's advantage to 14-9 after one period of play.

Messick again carried the Lady Jackets early in the second quarter, scoring her team's first four points to push the Nicholas County lead back to nine, 18-9, at the 6:44 mark. Humphries hit a shot seconds later to again give Nicholas County a nine-point advantage, 20-11. But Deming fired right back and scored the next four points before Bretz nailed a jumper in the lane to stop the run.

Clinging to a five-point lead after going more than two minutes without a basket, Nicholas County got a spark from Messick's 3-pointer with 2:07 remaining in the half and the Lady Jackets pushed their lead back to nine, 29-20, at the break on a pair of free throws by Brittanee Sosby and a nice rebound and put-back by Mitchell.

Both teams came out of the locker room cold and combined for only six points in the first five minutes of the second half. But Messick, who ended the drought with a basket at the 2:01 mark, once again sparked Nicholas County, which had not scored a basket in more than four minutes, and a C. Humphries basket just seconds later gave the Lady Jackets the first double-digit lead of the game, 36-25, with 1:37 remaining in the third.

Still leading by 11, Nicholas County had its advantage cut to 38-30 at the end of three when Deming hit a 3-pointer in the closing seconds of the period.

Brittanee Sosby and Shelby Sosby did the damage early in the fourth quarter for the Lady Jackets. Brittanee Sosby hit a basket to put her team up by nine, while Shelby Sosby extended the

lead back to double-digits with a lay-up off a nice pass from Bretz at the 5:30 mark.

Deming once again made a run at the Lady Jackets and scored the next five points to get within six, 42-36. It was still a six-point Nicholas County lead with just over a minute to go in the game after a Deming 3-pointer.

Nicholas County went back on top by eight, 47-39, when Messick hit a pair of free throws with 36 seconds to play. But Deming would not go away and hit a 3-pointer with six seconds remaining in the game to cut the lead to four. But that was as close as it would get as Messick scored the game's final point on a free throw with five seconds left.

While she was extremely pleased with the progress her team made since the Harrison County game, Corbett did see her team's work as a small step backwards in the Deming game. But she hopes that was a temporary setback.

"Our execution up until now has been good. But tonight we just forgot our plays and didn't run them at all," she said. "But the things we had been working on, like boxing out and free throws, we did a lot better on tonight. So it's like we patched one hole and another hole leaked right back out."

"But the girls played with a lot more effort and enthusiasm tonight," she said.

Harrison County 58
Nicholas County 24

Poor shot selection and lack of leadership continued to plague the Lady Jackets in a 34-point loss to district foe Harrison County, a team that lost considerable talent from a year ago when it was pushed to the limit and only able to escape Nicholas County with a one-point win in October.

It could get any worse for her team after a near 30-point loss to Scott High in the season-opener, was almost at a loss for words after the Harrison game. She said she was not able to explain her team's poor play, but cited shot selection and motivation as leading factors.

"Harrison County is not the best team we've played," she said. "But we've been so far off and we've faced so far and we've competed much better against them than we did tonight against Harrison County."

"Like we told the girls in the locker room after the game, we don't have a shot clock so we need to learn to execute and find a great shot," she continued. "Right now we are just shooting them to be shooting them. Meanwhile, Harrison County executed perfectly. Sometimes they would wait a minute or more before they took that perfect shot."

"And we just don't have anyone stepping up for us right now. Period," added Corbett, who multiple times in the Harrison County game subbed five reserves for five starters in an attempt to get her team on the right track.

"I'm trying to motivate the players and get the right players out there, play those who want to get the job done," she said.

Nicholas County played

evenly with Harrison County early and held the lead for most of the game's first four minutes. Shelby Sosby scored Nicholas County's first points on a pair of free throws, followed immediately by a 3-pointer by the sophomore guard at the 5:52 mark to give the Lady Jackets a 5-2 advantage.

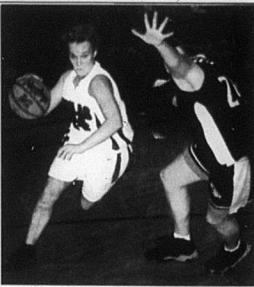
Brittanee Sosby hit a free shot against Scott High in the first to give Nicholas County's its biggest lead of the game, 6-2, before Harrison County roared back to take the lead with a 12-3 run over the final 4:29 of the quarter.

Trailing 14-9 after one, things only got worse for the Lady Jackets in the second quarter as Harrison County scored the first 14 points of the period and held Nicholas County scoreless for more than seven minutes to take a commanding 27-11 lead into the locker room at the intermission.

It was much the same in the third quarter as Harrison County scored the first nine points of the half before the third quarter as Harrison County finally put points on the board at the 1:01 mark on a basket by Jessica Gilkerson.

But that was all the Lady Jackets could manage in the period and they found themselves trailing, 38-14, after three.

Harrison County's big get lead - 38 points - came early in the fourth after the Filles scored the first four points of the frame, and Nicholas County was never able to make any kind of serious run at the host team.



Shelby Sosby goes to the basket against Deming.

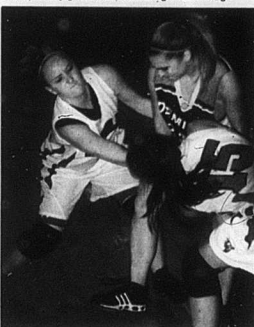


Photo by Wade Hallford

Lady Jackets C.C. Humphries, left and Hollee Bretz right double-team the ball against Deming in the season's first win for the Lady Jackets.

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