

SPORTS

Bretz to begin senior year

BARBOURVILLE - Nicholas County High School graduate Ryne Bretz knows his way around a gym. More specifically, Bretz knows his way around a basketball court.

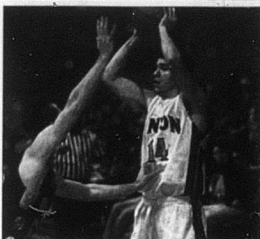
The 6-foot-3 guard showcased his hardwood talents this past winter during his junior season for the Union College Bulldogs.

Bretz started 18 of 31 games for the Union men's basketball program in the 2006-07 season. His 18 starts ranked as the third-most of any Union College player.

As a junior this winter, Bretz connected on 94-of-213 shots from the field, averaging 26.1 points per game for the NAIA men's basketball team.

The versatile guard from Carlisle pulled down an average of 3.45 rebounds per game. In 31 games, Bretz dished out 39 assists, blocked a team-high 25 shots and recorded 22 steals.

Union College finished the 2006-07 season 12-19 overall. The Bulldogs posted a 6-12 record in the Appalachian Athletic Conference.



14 - Ryne Bretz

As a sophomore during the 2005-06 season, Bretz averaged 6.13 points and 1.52 rebounds per game, appearing in 23 contests for the Union men's basketball team.

Bretz compiled eight assists, 13 steals and two blocked shots during his sophomore stint, totaling in a game-high 13 points in a game against conference rival Milligan College on Jan. 21, 2006.

During his freshman season (2004-05), Bretz made an immediate splash fresh

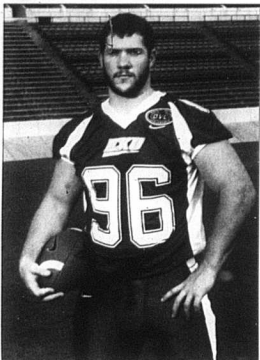
out of high school, appearing in 31 games while making one start for the Bulldogs.

The Nicholas County High School product averaged 3.32 points and 1.48 rebounds per game during his freshman campaign.

His season-high for points in a game during his freshman year was 11 versus Covenant on Dec. 7, 2004.

Bretz also had 21 assists, six steals and five blocked shots during her first college basketball season.

Reid nearing start of senior year at EKU



Sam Reid

RICHMOND - Sam Reid (6-0, 244) is closing in on the start of his junior football season with the Eastern Kentucky University football program. Reid, a Nicholas County High School graduate who will be a senior academically, appeared in all 11 of EKU's games last season.

The tight end contributed in various categories for the Colonels.

The Colonels concluded the 2006 campaign with four straight wins to finish 5-5 overall and tied for fourth in the OVC with a 2-3 record. This fall, EKU will be in search of its 30th consecutive winning season and first league title since 1997.

Reid made the most of a red shirt season. The NCHS alumnus redshirted in 2004 before seeing his first action as a college football player during the 2005 season.

During his freshman season (2005), Reid earned playing time in two games, recording a pair of tackles for losses, including a sack in Eastern Kentucky's win over Tennessee Tech on Sept. 24, 2005.

Reid wears number 96 for the EKU football team and has experience playing along both the offensive and defensive lines.

Reid and the Colonels will open the season on Saturday, Sept. 1 on the road at Commonwealth Stadium versus in-state rival Kentucky.

Eastern Kentucky's home opener against Western Carolina will be played on Sept. 8 at 6 p.m.

All four of Eastern Kentucky's remaining home tilts will be played in the afternoon. The Family Weekend game against Stanford is slated for Sept. 29 at 3 p.m. Eastern Kentucky's 2007 Homecoming game versus Tennessee State will be played on Oct. 20 at 3 p.m. Senior Day and the regular season finale is set for Nov. 17 against Tennessee Tech at 1 p.m.

Blue Jackets ready for passing season

It's said teams are made in the off-season. Nicholas County High School football coach Robert Hopkins plans to keep his team busy working throughout the summer portion of the off-season, including the KHSAA Dead Period. Passing scrimmages will be a part of Nicholas County's normal routine during this month and next.

The Blue Jackets will open up the summer passing season at home Thursday night at 6 versus Estill County. As part of a passing double-header, Hays County will play Bourbon County in the nightcap at around 7:30.

The Blue Jackets will conduct the passing league on Thursday nights. Exactly one week from Thursday, Nicholas County will return to the gridiron for another passing scrimmage.

Estill County ended the 2006 season 3-7. The Engineers, however, finished strong last fall, winning three of their final four regular-season games. Estill County posted wins over Morgan County, West Carter and Powell County. Head coach Mike Jones guides the Engineers.

Hopkins and his staff hosted a workout Monday evening that included 20-plus players. At a Class A school, athletes often pull double and even triple duty.

The Blue Jackets football staff, due to players being involved in other sports and activities, must play with out some players.

"Our kids have a lot going on during the summer," Hopkins commented. "We've got several kids involved with basketball and summer baseball."

Nicholas County lost nine seniors to graduation. The graduating class included

four linemen and two running backs. All together, as starters have moved on from the 2006 edition of the Nicholas County High School football team.

The Blue Jackets finished last season 2-8. Nicholas County blanked Lewis County 24-0 in its season opener.

In week five, Nicholas County posted one of its most impressive wins in school history, blasting Berea 52-0.

The Blue Jackets will be able to work on the aerial attack during the passing scrimmages, but Hopkins contends his team squad will lean more heavily towards the run.

"We'll still be more of a running team, going out of the Power 1," said Hopkins. "But we'll try to spread it out some, too. Those passing games are very important."

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Advertisement for Bourbon Community Hospital featuring the text 'Surgical Services for all ages' and 'No matter what team you're on... Our SURGICAL TEAM and PHYSICAL THERAPY TEAM is always standing by to get you back in the game.' It includes contact information: 859/987-3600 www.BourbonHospital.com.

NCHS ROUND BALL: Blue jackets set to host Paris

The month of June - especially the first three weeks - will be a hectic time for the Nicholas County High School boys' basketball team.

Nicholas County started its busy summer schedule Friday (June 1) with practice and weightlifting. The Blue Jackets practiced both Monday and Tuesday of this week as head coach Michael Cofer and his staff are looking to mold a district and region titles-contending team.

But it won't be all practice time for the Nicholas County squad. Cofer and his coaching staff welcome parents and fans for all of the home summer games as well.

Today (Wednesday June 6), Blue Jacket fans will have a chance to catch more than a glimpse of the 2007-08 edition of the Nicholas County boys' basketball team when Paris visits for a summer game. Nicholas County's

home summer games are open to the public.

The Blue Jackets will have their usual weightlifting session before taking on Paris. Tip-off for the Nicholas County-Paris game is set for 6 p.m.

"This summer is very important for our basketball program," Nicholas County Coach Michael Cofer commented prior to the start of summer workouts. "It will allow us to gel and bond as a team."

Cofer and his coaching staff welcome parents and fans for all of the home summer games as well.

"It's a great opportunity for parents and fans to get to see some exciting basketball this summer at our home gym as Paris, Central Hardin and Lexington Christian, all are coming to play some summer basketball here," Cofer confided.

The Blue Jackets will take to the road next week, traveling to Lexington for a team camp at Transylvania University. Nicholas County has a return game scheduled for June 18 on the road at Paris.

Blue Jacket fans who choose to stay close to home to catch the Nicholas County boys' basketball team in action this summer will have the opportunity to do so again June 20 when both Central Hardin and Lexington Christian visit.

Now through June 23, NCHS boys' basketball players will be hard at work in summer practices or games. The annual KHSAA (Kentucky High School Athletic Association) Dead Period is scheduled to begin June 24.

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