

Congratulations Lady Jackets!



Players, coaches and cheerleaders posed after the 38th district tournament to pose for a picture. The region bound Lady Jackets include, front row, l-r, C.C. Humphries, Hollie Bretz, Tiffany Wilson, Tara Wilson, Brittanie Sosby, Hannah Dixon, Shelby Sosby and Kayla Livingood. Second row, left to right, Ashley Mackland, Brandy Naman, Amanda Hamilton, Brandi Messick, Harper Halton, Samantha Watkins, Jessica Gilkerson, Megan Hunter, Hannah Garrett, Jordan Letcher, Lindsay Crawford, Kimber Letcher, Kristen Letcher, Haley McConnell, and Jen Marcum. Back row, l-r, Heather McCall, Leah Hughes, Morgan Kelly, Madeline Gallagher, Barry Bretz, Kim Dinkins, Hanna Sams, Petrea Mitchell.

Harrison withstands furious rally to win 51-44

By Hank Bond

Harrison County without two furious Nicholas County Lady Jackets' rallies to capture the 38th district title, Mar. 1, on their home court. Harrison County jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first three minutes of the game before NCHS Head Coach Barry Bretz signaled for a time out.

Three Fillies connected, two on lay ups and one from three point range to set the stage for Harrison County.

Out of the time out, in less than 15 seconds, Tara Wilson fielded an inside pass and laid one in to make it 7-2.

Harrison County's trip down the floor ended in a turnover and the Lady Jackets quickly pushed the ball up the floor as Tiffany Wilson drained a three-point shot and it was 7-5 with 3:46 to play in the first quarter.

Harrison County then added five points to lead 12-5, before Tiffany Wilson hit a lay up with 5:3 to go in the opening period.

Harrison County turned the ball over twice in the final minute, but did manage a field goal with nine seconds left to play to post a 14-7 lead, as the Lady Jackets' final shot was no good.

C.C. Humphries hit a jumper from the free throw line for the first points of the second quarter to make it 14-9.

Harrison County then ran off four straight before Tiffany Wilson connected from three-point range.

Harrison County pulled ahead 21-12 but Brandi Messick hit a lay up keyed by a nifty assist from Tiffany Wilson and after Harrison scored again, Hannah Dixon, a consistent three-point performer had a nothing but net shot and Petrea Mitchell powered up a put

back to make it 23-19. Harrison County then counted five straight to go ahead 28-19 before Brittanie Sosby stopped the run with a classic six-foot jumper in the lane to set the margin at intermission at 28-21.

We watched Harrison County and their last game of the regular season they beat Bishop Brossart by 17, Bretz said.

"I thought they would be a lot better team than what we faced the first two times and they were, but so were we," he added in praising his team.

Harrison County turned up the defensive pressure in the second half pulling out to a 31-21 lead before Tiffany Wilson hit two free throws and a lay up with 5:32 to go in the quarter to pull Nicholas County to within six, 31-25.

Harrison County missed a two-shot opportunity at the charity stripe as Messick picked up a foul inside, but Brittanie Sosby pulled from eight feet draining her second nothing by net shot on the night and again Nicholas County was within four, 31-27.

Harrison County then scored a lay up, two free throws and a six-foot jumper to move ahead 37-27.

Tara Wilson hit one of two free throws to stop the run and then Tiffany Wilson stole the crossing inbounds pass and laid it in off the steel to make it 37-30 with 1:38 to go in the third quarter.

The Fillies added a pair of charity shots twice set the lead at nine to end the third quarter at 41-30.

In the huddle at the quarter break, Bretz made some adjustments to the Lady Jackets' offense to counter the defensive play of Harrison County.

The fourth quarter was a pair of streaks. Harrison County hit five

of six free throws in the first three minutes but failed to count a field goal, while NCHS had three of four shooting from the free throw line and a shot from the free throw line by Amanda Hamilton.

Training 46-35 the Lady Jackets went on another run as Mitchell hit both ends of the bonus, Shelby Sosby laid one in, and Brittanie Sosby canned her third jumper of the night, this time from six

feet to make it 46-31. Harrison County missed two free throws but a Nicholas County turnover led to a basket for the Fillies. Hollie Bretz scored with 24 seconds to go in the game to make it 48-43 and then hit a free throw to make it 49-44 by Harrison County connected from the charity stripe to take the seven point district championship decision.

"We played a game where a shot here and a shot there we could be a district champion instead of them. I thought the key was we missed some easy shots and had some turnovers at crucial times. There in the third quarter we weren't recognizing them like we should. We made adjustments there in the fourth quarter, and I thought we played well," Bretz said.

"I'm like Coach (Mac) Whitaker said, he thought his team improved 100 percent since the two times (regular season) we played and he said we had improved right along with them. That's what you want to do to improve a lot late in the season."

In the 10th region tournament in Mt. Sterling, Tuesday night at Montgomery County High School, the Lady Jackets will face Brossart.

The Lady Stangs were big regular season winners at Nicholas County in the Lady Jackets' gym, Jan. 17, claiming a 57-26 win, however

was really into the game. Pendleton County was a 52-42 lower to Nicholas County in the district opener after taking a 17 point regular season win over NCHS. Bishop Brossart will enter the game with 19-7 season mark, claiming the championship of the 37th district.

"We picked up some tapes over at the regional draw and we have been watching six games on tape by Brossart," the coach said.

"To me there are three keys to be in any game and have a chance to win it - we have to be able to handle a three quarter court press. Then when they make a basket they face guard you by keying the people they know who are going to have the ball in their hands. They want you to get it into the girl who won't dribble it up the floor and then they catch you with it. We have to have more than one bring the ball up the floor and then recognize the trap."

"I've seen four games on tape, seen one, and then we saw the best game they shot from the floor was against us. If they're making their outside shots we may lose, because we have to give up one thing and we've decided to give up one thing and that's going to be that."

"We're going to protect the inside and we've got to be able to handle their three-quarter court trap. They haven't played it the past four or five games, that's what they did against us here so we have to expect it."

"Last year we played in front of the biggest crowd that's ever been over at Harrison County. All year long this season, we've played well. The doubleheader with Harrison County we played well and the doubleheader against Richmond Model."

"We enjoy playing front of the big crowd. It's like the other night when we came to the huddle. We weren't tight and timid. The crowd

was really into the game. We made all of our foul shots against Pendleton County in the fourth quarter and when the fourth quarter came against Harrison County we only missed one in the whole quarter.

"The big games don't really bother us. We're going to a big setting and we hope it will work to our advantage because we have been there and done that. It's a good experience to get there - this year we made it and when we came to practice the next day we were excited about going but it was a different. We think we're going over there to win it. Next year we won't want to be district runner-up we want to be champion."

On Mar. 5, the region opens with district winner and defending 10th Region champion Montgom-

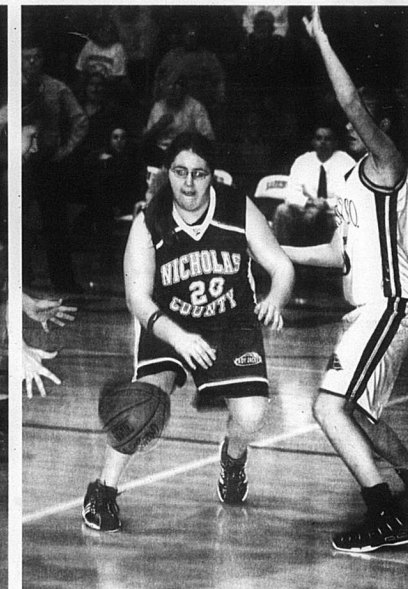
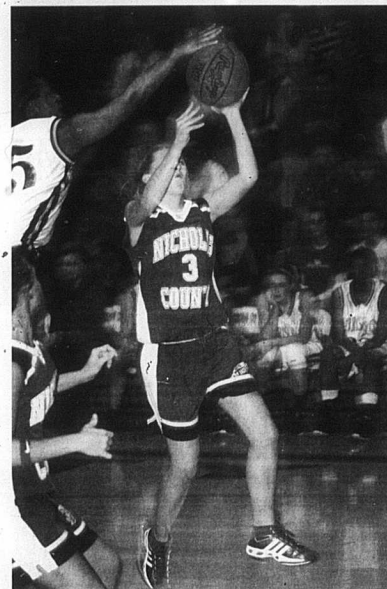
ery County battling Scott High School, district loser to Bishop Brossart at 6:30 p.m. with Harrison County taking on St. Patrick in the nightcap at 8:15.

On Mar. 6, Nicholas County will open the night against regional runner-up in 2006 Brossart at 6:30 with the night game set for 8:15 as Mason County takes on George Rogers Clark.

Nicholas County - Tiffany Wilson 16, Tara Wilson 4, Hollie Bretz 3, C.C. Humphries 2, Amanda Hamilton 2, Brittanie Sosby 6, Shelby Sosby 2, Petrea Mitchell 4, Brandi Messick 2, Hannah Dixon 3. Harrison County - Highlander 6, Turley 6, Bullock 3, Kendall 5, Munte 10, Hatfield 19, Dennis 2.

NCHS - 7 14 9 14-44
HCHS - 14 14 13 10-51

Congratulations Lady Jackets!



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and The Nicholas County Board of Education

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