

SPORTS

Reaching regionals is Bue Jackets' goal

By Wade Holland News Editor

Wade@nicholasnewsline.com Travis Sims has had some glory days during his many years of being associated with the Nicholas County baseball program.

cluded Sims since he took over in 2002 as head coach at Nicholas County is a trip to the regional tournament. With eight full-time starters returning from a team that was competitive within the region a year ago, that is a hurdle the Bluejackets believe they can clear this season and have set it as a goal for themselves.

"That is one of our main goals this year, to win district final four in 2006, he's celebrated some big wins and been apart of some big moments within the program. But the one thing that has

only lost one starter, so our strength has to be our experience. Everyone is a year older and wiser. And most of our seniors have been starters since they were freshmen.

"And the guys have good attitudes and the team unity is very good, too. That is very important," added Sims.

Nicholas County finished 11-19 overall last year with an 8-12 mark within regional play. The Bluejackets were a district contender who went 4-3 within district play last year before being

upset in the first round of district tournament play by Pendleton County; a team Nicholas had beaten twice during the regular season.

10 freshmen are listed on the varsity roster and many will get substantial playing time and will be given the same opportunity as upperclassmen.

While he's certain his team is better this year than it was a year ago, he's not sure if the win-loss record will reflect how good the team really is in the end.

"I feel real good about our season. But it's going to be tough because we've been on our schedule up a notch from the past two or three years," said Sims. "Hopefully we'll do what we need to do to get some wins, but to be honest, our win-loss record at the end of the year may not indicate how much talent or how much better we've gotten because of the schedule we'll play."

One thing on the Bluejackets' side has been the warm weather that has come early this year, leaving Sims very happy with the amount of time his team has been able to spend outside this pre-season.

"Compared to some years, this weather is great," he said. "I remember when I was a senior here, the first time we got on the field was our first game because the weather had been so bad that spring. But this year, we've already been outside six or seven days and it's looking like we will be able to get outside a few more times this week."

Nicholas County opens its season on March 26 at Berea in a varsity/junior varsity double header.

The Bluejackets will then remain on the road for the next two weeks with stops in Mason County, Bath County, St. Patrick, and Bourbon County scheduled.

The first chance for local fans to catch the Bluejackets at home will be Saturday, April 7 when Mason County visits for a varsity/junior varsity double header scheduled to start at 10 a.m.



Photo by Wade Holland

Nicholas County High School baseball is underway, as pre-season drills make the reason for the season.

Cofers reflects on 2006 season

By Wade Holland News Editor

Wade@nicholasnewsline.com While the win total never caught up to expectations, coach Michael Cofers says that was made in his first season at the helm of the Nicholas County boys basketball program.

The Bluejackets battled plenty of adversity during the season, including a 12-game losing streak and the dismissal of two senior starters from the team late in the year, to finish with a record of 5-22 overall.

But the Bluejackets started the final week of the regular season before turning in a valiant effort against Deming in the first round of District 38 tournament play from a 27-point deficit to have a chance to win.

"That game speaks volumes about these guys. They could have very easily been the most in the league, but they got down by that many. But they kept battling. And that shows how much they did improve during the year and how much courage they had," commented Cofers.

"They could have very easily been home embarrassed after that game, but instead they turned it into a positive and went home with their heads held high. They left it all on the court."

There were lessons learned and a lot of maturing done by both the players and coaching staff during the season. The players had to get used to a new coach with a new system and new style of play, while Cofers had to learn how to deal with the everyday pressures of being a head coach for the first time, which included making the decision to release two seniors from the team late in the season for disciplinary reasons.

"That was without a doubt one of the toughest decisions I've ever had to make, mainly because of who it was," said Cofers. "Those two are great guys. There's nothing I wouldn't do for them. I have a lot of respect for both of

them. But it basically came down to the fact that I've got to look out for the entire team and what's best for the program. I've got to do what is best for the Nicholas County program not just today, but for the future. And in order to have a successful program everyone has to be committed and dedicated to the team, to each other, and to the program. And that was the basis for my decision.

"But dismissing those guys from the team was very hard on me because of the way I felt about them," added Cofers. "I respect both of them very much, especially for the way they've acted after the fact. They've acted like gentlemen and have carried themselves in a very professional way. If they ever come to me and need me to do something for

them, they can believe that I'm going to be there for them."

At the root of Nicholas County's failures this season was poor defensive play. The Bluejackets gave up an average of 86 points per game, one of the highest averages of any team in the 107-team league.

"Defensively, we struggled big time this year," said Cofers. "I think a lot of it was because of the new system. I don't think we started to click until the final two or three games. Down the stretch, we really started to play well."

"We're going to work this off-season on getting stronger and quicker and hopefully our defense will benefit from that."

So what's next for the Bluejackets? Cofers has a busy summer planned for the team, including camping at Transylvania University in June and possibly hosting some summer games here in Carlisle, but for the moment, the team is taking some time off after the long season.

"I talked to the players after the season was over and I've been thinking how we are going to get in the weight room and do things to get better, and they're all excited about it," said Cofers. "Some of them can't wait and have already been asking me to open the gym up and let them in the weight room. But we're going to take some time off and go back to work after Spring Break."

"We're going to have a busy summer, but it should be a very exciting time."

For more information on the Bluejackets, visit our website at nicholascountyky.com.

for us and hopefully we'll improve a lot during that time." Five seniors were on the roster roster this season. Most were starters but all played significant roles for the Bluejackets. Because of the personnel lost to graduation, Cofers says the team will likely be forced to play a different style of ball next season.

Next year will be different because we are going to be smaller," said Cofers. "We're probably going to spread the floor out a little more next year and hopefully the floor a lot more than we did this year. And we'll do a lot more trapping and pressure on defense because we are going to be smaller. It's going to be a different kind of team, but I think it will be a very exciting team."

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DIRT CHEAP PRICES

Table with columns for product types (e.g., #2 SPF, #2 SO. YELLOW PINE) and prices for various sizes (8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20).

OSB (Oriented Strand Board) pricing table with columns for size and price.

LAUAN PLYWOOD pricing table with columns for size and price.

PLYWOOD pricing table with columns for size and price.

UNFINISHED POPLAR pricing table with columns for size and price.

AdvanTech FLOORING & CREATING INC. advertisement featuring a map and pricing for studs.

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