

SPORTS

Mynear injured; NCHS wins 14-6

By Hank Bond
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What started out as a normal high school football game, ended with an injury to Nicholas County quarterback Jordan Mynear.

While the Jackets defeated Pendleton County, 14-6, the last play injury to Mynear as he tried to kneel and down the ball will keep him out of at least the Raceland game this Friday night.

According to Mynear's mother her son, who is a junior at NCHS, sustained a MCL sprain and a nose bruise surrounding the knee.

Mynear will be out this week. His availability to play will be determined by the medical team at the University of Kentucky Medical Sports Medicine Center on a week-to-week basis.

NCHS Head Football Coach and athletic director Robert Hopkins remains upset about the incident.

"At the end of the game it's only a one possession game," Hopkins said. "You don't want to say you take a play off when there's a game to be won, but it was evident," the coach emphatically said, "they knew they weren't going to get the ball back. Their intent was to injure. It was evident."

"It was a cheap shot. Was it called for by the coaching staff? I don't know. I don't have radio out there to hear what they say. I would hope a coach would not signal for something like that. I'd hope that we have better people in our profession like that. All I know for sure is that I have a player hurt."

"The way they (Pendleton County players) were taunting our players after the game after that incident... It was a bad situation. I was pretty upset."

The game was not a smooth effort for the Jackets.

In the first half Nicholas County could not move the ball after taking the opening kickoff and went out in five plays, one of which was a penalty.

Pendleton County drove only a few yards, gaining a first down but on third and 11 at the Nicholas County 24, a quarterback sack set Pendleton County back and a fourth and 20 pass fell incomplete.

Ryan Stegman raced 29 yards on first down to the end zone to give the Wildcats a 6-0 lead with 3:13 to play in the first quarter.

"I am not knocking Pendleton County. Stegman is a good running back, they have some good linemen as well. I just didn't think we played very well the first half," Hopkins said.

"The first play of the touchdown should have been a touchdown. The kickoff should have been evident. We haven't played real well since Bourbon County."

"We have so much energy into the Paris and Bourbon County games we're a little bit tired."

Tired or not, the Jackets have improved to 4-3, winning more games this season than the total victories in the past two years. The last season NCHS won four games in a season was 2002 when NCHS finished the season with a 7-4 mark.

That was Hopkins' first year as head coach. In 2001, now assistant Greg Letcher led the Jackets to a 7-4 mark as well.

"We didn't execute very well. Line has to get a little better. Justin Little, out with a hamstring, it hurts when he's out."

"We found a way to win it and we had to make the plays."

Nicholas County drove to the 38, but on fourth and 15 Jonathan Mattox picked up eight yards but came up short on first down.

Nicholas County took over in the final seconds of the first quarter and then drove to the end zone, capped by a two yard run by Mattox with 8:01 to go in the half and following a penalty the kick sailed wide to the left and game was tied at 6-6.

Pendleton County took the second half kickoff but could not advance and the Jackets took the ball back at the 22 in Jacket's territory.

Mattox carried seven straight times, covering 78 yards, the last a 31 yard gallop to pay dirt and when Mynear connected with Andy McCarty for the two point conversion, Nicholas took the lead for good at 14-6.

Nicholas County did threaten but did not score the rest of the way.

Mattox carried 41 times for 243 yards. Michael Reid had four carries for 41 yards.

Mynear was two for eight passing with a 15 yard strike to Ben Layne and a three yard pass to Andy McCarty.

Pendleton County had 129 yards rushing and 28 yards

passing.

Jeremiah Brown had eight solo tackles with two assists. Mattox had eight tackles and one assist. Cody Barnett had six solo stops and three assists.

Raceland is next on the road Friday night in a district match-up.

Veteran Rams coach Randy Vanderhoof has plenty of respect for the Jackets as he looks back over his team's season.

"We are 2-1 in the District, and 5-2 overall, Vanderhoof said of this season.

As for Friday night, he is looking at the Jackets with caution.

"Nicholas County has a good football team and is playing with a lot of confidence. They have some outstanding skill players and their line is very strong and aggressive."

"Whoever can control the line of scrimmage and take care of the football will win this game Friday night. Coach (Robert) Hopkins and his staff have done a great job developing a good football team," Vanderhoof said as he complimented his counterpart.

"Raceland will be a real test. They are rated number seven in the state. They have had a lot of injuries. They've had five or six out at a time. They're getting back to the team that beat

Greenup and Ashland early in the year.

"It's going to be a big task going to Raceland to play especially with Jordan (Mynear) out."

"We feel like we have a job. We have to play well and block better. If we move

our feet on defense we can do well."

Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. Friday night on the banks of the Ohio in Raceland.

The Jackets are scheduled to be on the Scholastic ball report on WKYT-TV Saturday morning at 11:30 a.m.



Photo by Hank Bond and Dustin Robinson
 Below left, the Bluejackets backfield looks to take the ball to the end zone. Above, NCHS quarterback Jordan Mynear looks to get outside against Pendleton County.

The Carlisle Mercury Players of the Week



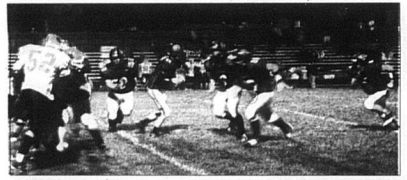
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 Jonathan Mattox



Defensive Player
 Logan White



Lineman
 Cody Barnett



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