

SPORTS

Jackets rally, soar past Comets

OLIVE HILL - Despite falling behind early on, Nicholas County was able to notch its first win Friday night on the road at West Carter. The Jackets rallied twice in the game and defeated host West Carter 24-20.

Senior running back Jonathan Mattox had what could be called a career night against the Comets, carrying the ball 18 times for 207 yards and striking paydirt twice. He also had 12 tackles.

His first touchdown came in the second quarter, with the Jackets leading 12-7, on an 88-yard run from scrimmage and the Jackets led 18-7.

He then scored what would prove to be the winning touchdown on a 52-yard run, raising a 20-18 West Carter lead with just minutes to

play in the fourth quarter. Michael Reid had an eight-yard run in the first period to open scoring as Nicholas County led 6-0. After West Carter had taken a 7-6 lead, Andy McCarty picked off an errant pass and raced to the end zone to make it 12-7.

Mattox led Nicholas County offensively and defensively.

Michael Reid followed with 60 yards and a touchdown on 12 carries.

In the total yards department, Nicholas County out-gained West Carter 807-215. The Jacket defensive unit picked off a pair of West Carter passes.

Andy McCarty and Tyler Hunt each had an interception for visiting Nicholas County.

The West Carter offense managed to complete just two-of-13 passes for 53

yards and one touchdown to go along with the two interceptions.

McCarty returned his interception 15 yards for a touchdown.

Mattox had touchdown runs of 88 and 52 yards, respectively. His second touchdown, a 52-yard jaunt in the fourth quarter, pushed Nicholas County out in front for good. "It was nice to get the win, but as a coaching staff, we know there are some things we need to work on," said Hopkins. "We had a bad week of practice. With the heat like it has been there's just so much you can do."

"Friday night was the first time we had been out in full pads all week. We came out flat and dug ourselves a hole both offensively and defensively." The Jackets were whittled for six penalties for 70 yards.

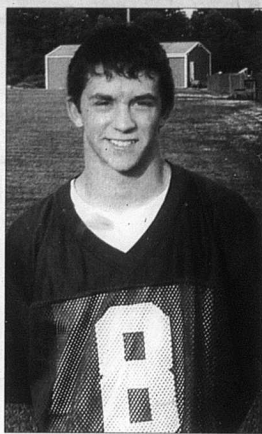
West Carter is a team fresh off of a playoff appearance. Nicholas County entered the non-district game looking to get a win over a quality opponent.

"(Coach) Kevin (Brown) and his staff go a good job," said Hopkins. "West Carter has a good football team."

West Carter finished with 162 yards rushing on 38 carries.

Mattox led the Nicholas County defensive effort, recording 12 tackles. Ten of Mattox's stops were of the solo variety. Reid followed with nine tackles, six of which were solo.

Mattox, Reid and McCarty each had a fumble recovery. Nicholas County will continue its early-season road trip this Friday night in Westwood versus Class, District 8 rival Fairview. The Eagles are 2-0.



Jonathan Mattox

Bluejackets open football district play at Fairview

WESTWOOD - Nicholas County will open district play on the road Friday night versus longtime rival Fairview. The Eagles have a new coach calling the shots.

Rex Cooksey, who has coached the Eagles during a couple of previous stints, took over the program in July following the resignation of Chad Tackett. In two games, Fairview has out-scored a pair of opponents a combined 74-15. Fairview opened the season with a 62-15 win over Lewis County.

This past Friday night, Fairview blanked East Carter 12-0. Cooksey has 30 years of experience as a football coach - 14 as a head coach.

"Fairview is a good football team. They've got a veteran head coach in Rex Cooksey, who has returned to the program. The coaching staff is solid all the way around."

Robert Hopkins
Jackets Coach

Senior Daniel Armstrong is the go-to offensive player in the fold for the Fairview gridiron unit. Armstrong totaled 1,090 yards as a junior. On the defensive side, Armstrong recorded 57 tackles.

Versatile seniors Casey Clark and Justin McCoy will also get touches and aid the Fairview offense in its efforts to cross over into the end zone. Linebacker Keith McClelland (5-10, 150) posted 100 tackles, including nine for losses, last fall. McClelland is back to lead the Fairview defense. Injuries hindered Fairview's chances during the 2006 campaign.

Fairview finished last season 4-6, missing out on the playoffs. The Eagles came from behind and then held on to beat Nicholas County 30-24 when the two teams met up during the 2006 regular season in Carlisle.

Fairview posted additional wins last season over Paintsville (28-14), Lewis County (38-0) and Berea (55-18).

"It's a big game," said Hopkins. "Fairview is a good football team. They've got a veteran head coach in Rex Cooksey, who has returned to the program. The coaching staff is solid all around."

Hopkins is quick to tout the latest edition of the Fairview football team's athleticism and the program's tra-

dition in general.

Fairview has some speed in the backfield," Hopkins said. "It'll be a challenge."

Fairview is a tough place to play - it always has been. It will be a real battle."

Nicholas County, following a season-opening loss at Jeffersonstown, got its

offense going versus West

Carter this past Friday night. Kickoff for the Nicholas County-Fairview game is set for 7:30 p.m.

JACKETS JV TRIUMPHS - The Nicholas County football program's junior varsity team completed a sweep of West Carter

on Monday night, defeating the Comets for its first win of the season. The Nicholas County JV team improved to 1-1 following the win over West Carter.

"Our JV team played well against West Carter," said Hopkins. "It was good to see the JV team get the win."

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