

SPORTS

Jackets roll over Model, 66-57

By Wade Holland
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Fans hoping to see the state's leading scorer in action instead got treated to the Kyle Campbell Show Friday at Model Traditional School in Richmond.

Campbell exploded for a season-high 37 points to lead the Nicholas County

Bluejackets to a 66-57 win over Model, which is led by Kentucky's top scorer, Devin Gerald, who averages 28 points per game.

Campbell had the hot hand from the very beginning, scoring seven points in the first quarter and 10 in the second. The sophomore guard had three 3-pointers during that span.

While he scored only five points, including another 3-pointer in the third quarter, Campbell was not done and came up with a 15-point explosion in the fourth quarter.

"Kyle's big for us," said Nicholas County Coach Michael Cofer. "He is our leading scorer and we look to him for scoring. I'm just glad he was able to come in here and catch on fire tonight. But these other guys really hit him with some good passes that allowed him to get his shots."

Matt White also had a big game for Nicholas County, scoring 12 points, all in the second half. White was one of several players who stepped in during the absence of starting point guard D.R. Purvis, who went down early in the fourth quarter with a hand injury. White scored seven of his points after Purvis' departure.

"The team really stepped up big when D.R. went out," said Cofer. "I thought we got some excellent minutes from Tyler Hunt and Johnny Mattox. They were guarding the state's leading scorer and pretty much shut him down because they played physical all night."

Purvis, who missed much of last season with a fracture in his left wrist, hurt his right wrist when he went hard to the floor on a drive to the basket early in the fourth quarter. Before that, he was having a nice game with seven points, including a key 3-pointer in the third quarter.

Nicholas County didn't fare very well in the early part of the game, finding itself in a hole early. Model

led by as many as 10 in the first before Nicholas County started its comeback by outscoring the Patriots 14-9 in the second quarter.

Nicholas County continued to chip away at Model's lead early in the third quarter. Just moments after taking a charge on the defensive end of the floor, Purvis hit a 3-pointer with 5:50 remaining in the third to pull the Jackets within two, 28-26.

Model went back up by six and held the same advantage with two minutes remaining in the third when Campbell got hot and scored five straight points in a 16-second span. Purvis then hit a jumper with 50 seconds left in the third to give Nicholas County's the lead, 35-34.

After Model retook the lead, White came up big with a three-point play with

19 seconds remaining to give the Bluejackets a 38-36 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Still leading by two, Nicholas County added to its advantage when White hit a basket at the 4:36 mark and Campbell followed with a 3-pointer to give the Bluejackets a 48-42 lead.

Nicholas County spent much of the rest of the night at the free throw line, connecting on 13 of 16 shots from the charity stripe over the last 3:44 of the game. White was 5-of-6 from the free throw line during that period, while Campbell was a perfect 6-for-6.

"That's crucial," said Cofer of his team's free throw shooting down the stretch. "Anytime you knock down your free throws it's going to give you a chance to win. The guys really stepped up

big time tonight, and I'm glad to see it."

Cofer, who had been preaching to his team for the last several days in practice that it needed to be more physical, was very happy with the response he got from his team against Model.

"It was a very physical game. They were attacking us. We were attacking them. It was a very aggressive game," he said. "And that is fine by me. I talked to the team all week long about getting tougher and being more physical. And we were. And that is why we were able to come in here and win because we were physical."

Following Campbell, White and Purvis in the scoring column for the winners was Fryman with five, Tyler Rose with three, and Johnny Mattox with two.

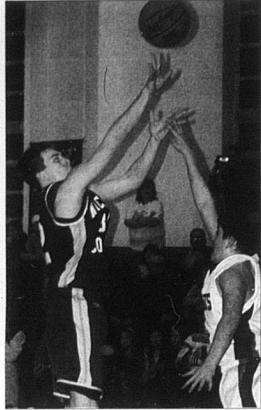


Photo by Wade Holland

Kyle Campbell lifts a shot against Lexington Sayre.

Sayre hands Jackets 76-38 loss

When you're struggling with turnovers and your opponent is hitting its shots, it's normally going to be a long night. Just ask the Nicholas County Bluejackets, who found this out the hard way in a 76-38 loss to Sayre on January 8 in Care.

Nicholas County once again committed well in excess of 20 turnovers and Sayre took advantage by hitting a high percentage of its shots on the other end of the floor in the blowout win.

"We had too many turn-

overs to be competitive," said Nicholas County Coach Michael Cofer. "Turnovers are the story of our season."

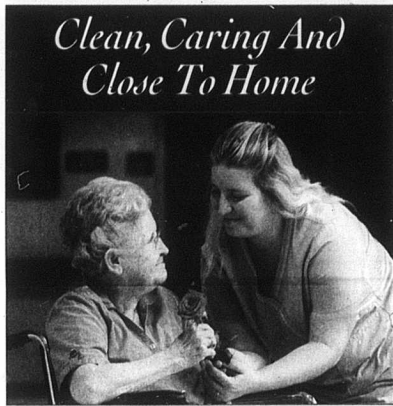
"But Sayre has good shooters and they take care of the ball. They don't make mistakes. They are a very good team. You can't take anything away from them. But we just didn't come out physical. We didn't get in people's faces defensively. And Sayre came out and knocked it down."

The visitors were especially hot in the first half when they built their lead to double digits early on and then cruised the rest of the way. The second quarter, when Sayre outscored Nicholas County 25-4, was the difference.

"They were on fire in the first half," said Cofer. "I don't know what they shot, but it was a very good percentage."

"And our turnovers helped that, of course."

Leading 49-18 at the half, Sayre added to its lead by outscoring Nicholas County 19-6 in the third period to take a 67-24 advantage into the final quarter. Nicholas won the scoring battle over the last eight minutes, 14-9. Kyle Campbell led Nicholas County with 21 points.



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Bourbon County claims nine point win

Keeping their turnovers in check, the Nicholas County Bluejackets found a new way to beat themselves in a 39-30 loss to Bourbon County Saturday in Paris.

The Bluejackets, who average well over 20 turnovers per game, limited their mistakes to only 12 against Bourbon County, but faltered at the charity stripe and hit only 11 of 29 free throws at temps in the loss.

"Our free-throw shooting was absolutely horrible, and we still had a chance to win," said Nicholas County Coach Michael Cofer. "We only turned the ball over 12 times, and that is the reason we had our chances. We played well, but the mental mistakes kept the stretch really cool and I feel like we played pretty well. We played hard and we were physical," said Cofer. "But Bourbon County's size took six tall on us. I think we got a little tired and missed a lot of block outs. And that probably cost us the game."

A bit of good news for the Bluejackets was the return of junior point guard D.R. Purvis, who hurt his wrist in the previous game. The injury was at first feared to be a possible fracture, but turned out to be a deep laceration allowing Purvis to play, though not up to his usual standards.

"It was great news that he didn't hurt it worse," said Cofer. "D.R. is playing through a lot of pain right now. And that shows what kind of courage he has. He's our man ball handler and we need him out there on the floor."

Nicholas County was led by sophomore Kyle Campbell, who had one of his better games of the year with 30 points and 12 rebounds. Tyler Rose was next with seven points, followed by guard Johnny Mattox, who had an all-around solid game with six points, four rebounds, two assists and two steals.



Photo by Dustin Robinson

Champions

NCMS Cheerleaders won the ORVC (Ohio River Valley Conference) cheerleading competition by 21.5 points (There are 6 teams in the conference). Kneeling left to right Katie Trussell, Jania Wagener, Megan Campbell, Hannah Colclough (captain), Anna Mattox, Beth Livingood, Hannah McCord, Destiny Johnson. Standing left to right Jama Hale, Maribeth Browning, Katie Myers, Kendra Letcher, Jessica Mattox, Kacey Campbell, Kara Townsend. Coach Susan T. Flowers.

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