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SPORTS

Sayre e minates Jackets from tourney

By Wade Holland wade@thecarlislemercury.com

Unable to put the ball in the basket, the Nicholas County Bluejackets dug themselves into an early hole against visiting Sayre and was unable to dig themselves out in a 55-42 defeat Monday in opening-round action of the Bluegrass Conference Tournament. Nicholas County missed its first eight spots of the game and spotted Sayre a 12-0 lead, which ended up being the difference. We just couldn't make a shot tonight," said Nicholas County Coach Michael Coker. "You're going to have these kind of nights as a basketball team. But I think we took good shots. Everybody took good shots. We just couldn't get them in."

By Sayre helped the visitors extend its lead to 24-8, the biggest of the first half. Despite back-to-back baskets by Nicholas County, Nicholas still trailed by 16 at the half, 28-12. Nicholas County came out of the locker room firing and cut Sayre's advantage to 11, 29-23. Nicholas County went right back with a 12-4 run to go up by 19, 40-21, with 2:30 remaining in the third. The lead remained well in Sayre's favor, 42-27, heading into the final period of play. But Nicholas County was not done and played its best half late. Campbell, the Jackets' leading scorer, took over the game early in the fourth quarter and scored 10 points in a 10-3 Nicholas County run that got the Jackets back within striking distance, 47-36. But that was as close as Nicholas County could get as Sayre outscored his host team 5-2 in the final minute of play. Coker, who is in his second season as head coach of the Bluejackets, said he felt his team hadn't really placed some of the blame for the loss on himself for changing defenses during the third quarter. "The guys played really hard defensively. And we looked a lot better than we

did the first time we played," said Coker. "But we went to a zone there in the third, and maybe we shouldn't have. That is my fault. But the guys fought hard and got back into the game, and as a coach, that's what you want." Campbell led Nicholas County's offensive attack with 21 points. Rose was next with 10, followed by Purvis with seven and White with four. Those were the only four players to contribute points for the Bluejackets. "We're offensively challenged as a team. I know that, and the guys know that," said Coker. "But like I tell the guys, you have to keep looking to score. It doesn't matter who shoots it. I don't really care who shoots it. But we've got to get more players looking to score."

White pointing out that he believes his team has what it takes to beat Sayre, Coker also does not take anything away from the Lexington school. "Sayre is a well coached team," said Coker. "They do a lot of different things defensively that really throws you off as a team. And I was really proud of the way our guys handled that. But Sayre is very well coached and they don't make mistakes offensively. They're very patient."

Nicholas County, which drops to 2-14 overall, is off for the next week before they resume play on February 3 at Berea. Coker says they will be little time to relax during that week. "We'll take one day off and then we'll go back to work," he said. "Our goal is to get better as a team. We'll keep working and hope that when it comes tournament time, we'll be ready."

Calvary Christian 60, Nicholas County 47. Not hitting a basket in the first quarter was too much for Nicholas County to overcome in an opening-round loss in All-I Classic 19th Region Tournament action. Nicholas County could manage only a single free throw by Matt White in the opening period as Calvary Christian took a 17-1 lead and never looked back. Kyle Campbell scored a game-high 28 points, 20 of them coming in the second half, to pace Nicholas County in scoring. He hit 8-of-10 free throw attempts and a pair of 3-pointers. D. R. Purvis was next with nine points for the Jackets, while Tyler Rose added four and Johnny Mattox and Matt White three each. August 57, Nicholas County 48. Tyler Rose was next for Nicholas County with seven points, followed by D.R. Purvis and Cody Fryman with five each. Johnny Mattox with four, Scott Clark three and Matt White one.



Photo by Wade Holland. Kyle Campbell drives the baseline against the Lexington Sayre defense in the opening round of the Bluegrass Conference Tournament.

Little League Basketball

- Little League Results January 26, 2008 K-2 Bruins 30 Workman 26 Swainson 2, Han 2 Magy 22 Reid 4 Wiggins 4, Bruins 6, Day 8 3-4 Sparks 13 Flowers 6, Hughes 7 Lady Vols 4: Sowell 2, A. Hughes 2 Sparks 12, Flowers 3, Hughes 8 Sparks 2: H. Howard 2 3-4 Lady Vols 10: Short 2, A. Bussell 8 Sparks 6: Craig 2 Woodruff 1 Lady Vols 2: Short 2 Phillips 0 3-4 Lady Vols 17: Myers 9 Townsend 6, K. Holler 2 Sparks 10: Smith 6, Bretz 6, K. Letcher 4 Lady Vols 36: Backler 2, Myers 11, Tolson 2 Townsend 5, Stamper 2, K. Holler 2 Phillips 13: Trussell 2, Jolly 3, Caswell 4, J. Howard 4 Boys Bruins 24: Workman 10, Mullins 2, Hughes 4, Hamilton 6, Parton 2 Wildcats 7: Wells 2, Co. Shrout 2, Hatton 3 Gators 18: Stacy 2, Morris 12, Gance 2 Ritchie 2 Nuggets 10: Switzer 2, A. Davis 6, Watkins 2 K-2 district tournament time. And Nicholas County is very hit as capable of winning the district as Harrison or Pendleton. And you certainly can't count out Denning, which handed Nicholas County one of its worst losses of the season just two weeks ago. In more than two decades of playing Little League school sports here in the Bluegrass state, I've met some people who have developed friendships that will last me a lifetime. But some of the most outstanding young men I've ever met come from the Nicholas County Bluejackets basketball program. I met Kyle Campbell more than a year ago and was impressed with his attitude and basketball knowledge. Next was D.R. Purvis, who has turned out to be one of the most polite young men I've ever met. That is, until I shook hands with Nicholas County senior Tyler Rose. It was his way that any of the four teams is capable of winning it all come

- ossett 2 Sparks 4: Martin 4 5-6 Sparks 29: Smith 2, Fryman 6, Bretz 10, Livingston 2, Letcher 6, Johnson 4 Phillips 6: Dotson 2, J. Howard 4 Boys Wildcats 18: Wells 8, Sexton 2, Mitchell 2, Ch. Shrout 2, Hatton 4 Nuggets 10: Switzer 4 Campbell 3, T. Davis 1, Bowles 2, Lavinille 6 Gators 21: Stacy 2, Morris 15, Blake 4 Bruins 17: Workman 13, Hamilton 4 3-4 Gators 7: Browning 2, Glass 2, Chimp 2, Watkins 1 Wildcats 0 Nuggets 15: W. Sapp 2, Barnett 9, Bowles 6 Bruins 5: Markland 3, Perkins 2 5-6 Nuggets 36: A. Fryman 4, Soble 9, Bussell 16, Duncan 7 Wildcats 27: Bussell 2, Simpson 13, Sexton 8, Beart 4 Gators 36: Trussell 10, Webb 10, Keaton 14, Hughes 2 Bruins 35: Watkins 10, Sexton 21, Fryman 2, Hayes 2

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Wade's Words

district tournament time. And Nicholas County is very hit as capable of winning the district as Harrison or Pendleton. And you certainly can't count out Denning, which handed Nicholas County one of its worst losses of the season just two weeks ago. In more than two decades of playing Little League school sports here in the Bluegrass state, I've met some people who have developed friendships that will last me a lifetime. But some of the most outstanding young men I've ever met come from the Nicholas County Bluejackets basketball program. I met Kyle Campbell more than a year ago and was impressed with his attitude and basketball knowledge. Next was D.R. Purvis, who has turned out to be one of the most polite young men I've ever met. That is, until I shook hands with Nicholas County senior Tyler Rose. It was his way that any of the four teams is capable of winning it all come

release next week and found that the professionalism displayed by both Campbell and Purvis is also a strong suit for Rose. These three young men are a credit to their community in every way. I'm sure there are others on the team that hold the same values. I've just not met them yet. Please stay tuned next week as we release the Rose story here in The Mercury. Talk about a ship dressed man, I look like a million dollars in my new Nicholas County Bluejacket shirt given to me this week by Coach Michael Coker. These shirts are super nice with a very sharp logo on the front. I'm guessing that the basketball program on the school are selling these shirts. If they are, I would strongly suggest that you get out and buy one or two for yourself. You'll look better than you are in while and you'll be supporting some of the most deserving young men and women. Johnson Mathers Nursing Home • 2323 Concrete Road • Carlisle, KY 40311 (859) 289-7181 • johnsonmathers.org