

SPORTS

# Lady Jackets stun Harrison Co.

By Wade Holland  
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It only took two months, but first-year Nicholas County Coach Jennifer Cornett finally got the kind of performance from her team that she expected would come early and often when she took over the Lady Jacket program.

Playing arguably their best game of the season, the Lady Jackets topped district-heavyweight Harrison County, 52-51, Saturday

in Carlisle. The win helped avenge an earlier loss to the Fillies that totaled 34 points.

While she was very happy with her team's performance and had nothing but praise for the Lady Blue-jackets, Cornett was quick to point out that her team has even more potential than it showed in the Harrison County win.

"We're capable of much more than this," she said of the Harrison County win. "Early in the first quarter

we were struggling like we did against Bracken and Deming and I thought, 'here we go again.' But we took some starters out and put in Hannah Dixon and Petra Mitchell and they played extremely well. Our starters didn't do anything wrong. Hannah and Petra just stepped up and played really well."

Mitchell had what is very likely her best game of the season with a team-high 17 points. Dixon scored eight off the bench, including a

pair of 3-pointers. "We had the home environment, which helps," Cornett said of the differences between the first meeting with Harrison County and last week's game. "But more than anything, the girls owed them one. They didn't play at all against Harrison earlier in the season. So they came into this game feeling like they owed them one and they played their butts off."

The win, which improves the Lady Jackets to 6-9 overall, also helps Nicholas County's confidence down the stretch. "This win shows the girls that they can play with the teams in our district and it shows them that we can go nine deep," said Cornett. "A lot of teams can't do that and can only go 5 or 6 deep. Right now we're playing nine deep and playing well."

Harrison County was strong out of the gates and didn't waste any time in building a double-digit advantage to lead 14-4 after one. But Nicholas County was just getting started and outscored the visitors 17-8 in the second quarter to get back in the game, 23-21, at the half.

Harrison continued to lead in the third quarter and out-scoring the Lady Jackets 18-16 in the period to lead 41-37 with one quarter to play. That's when Nicholas County stepped up, outscoring the Fillies 15-10 in the final eight minutes for the win.

Nicholas County, which has now won four of its last seven games, will be back in action on January 31 in Blugrass Conference Tournament action. The Lady Jackets will play the winner of the Model-Sayre game. Cornett, who will be in attendance for the Model vs Sayre game, said no matter which team wins, she knows her Lady Jackets will have a tough battle on their hands.

Sayre, which features two players whose fathers played professionally, is the favorite in its game against Model. Sayre is led by senior center Samantha Bowie, the daughter of former University of Kentucky basketball great Sam Bowie, who went on to have a successful career in the NBA. Sayre point guard Minnifield, the daughter of University of Louisville Hall of Famer and ex-NFL great Frank

Minnifield, is also an emerging talent.

**NICHOLAS COUNTY** (52) - Petra Mitchell 17, Brittanie Sooby 10, Hannah Dixon 8, Hollie Bretz 7, Jessica Gilkerson 6, Brandi Messick 2, Shelby Sooby 2.  
**HARRISON COUNTY** (51) - Kendall 18, Bullock 12, Hatfield 3, Jett 6, Murphy 6, Mantz 1.

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Bracken County 42, Nicholas County 31. Nicholas County was unable to advance in All A' Classic 10th Region Tournament action, falling to the Lady Polar Bears, who advanced to the title game before falling to Paris.

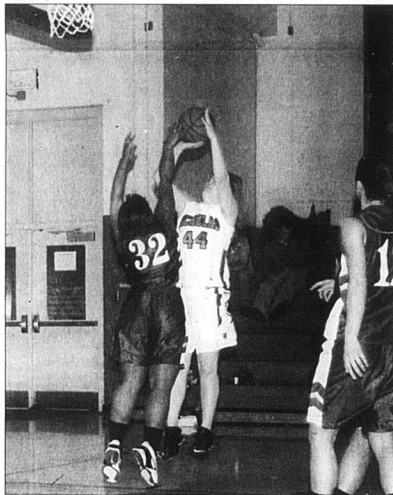
Nicholas County managed only four points in the first quarter and trailed the rest of the way, including 21-10 at the half and 32-19 after three.

Nicholas County got nine points from Brandi Messick. Fellow senior Hollie Bretz was next with eight. Brittanie Sooby added seven points for the Lady Jackets, while Shelby Sooby chipped in four. C.C. Humphries two, and Petra Mitchell one.



Photos by Dustin Robinson

Above, Hollie Bretz fields a pass for Nicholas County as she runs of the offense against Harrison County. Below, Petra Mitchell (44) goes high on the baseline. Mitchell led the Lady Jackets with 17 points and 10 rebounds.



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