

SPRING SPORTS

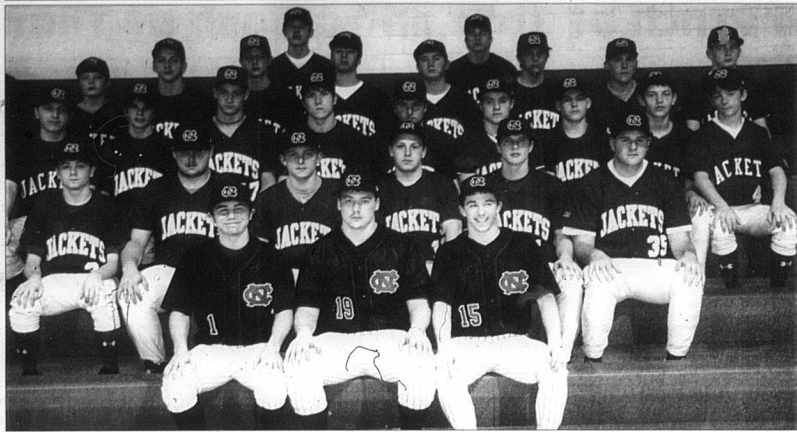


Photo submitted

2008 Baseball Team

Front row: Alex Florence, Michael Reid, Johnny Mattox; Second Row: Jordan Steward, Jim Conyers, Shane Sweet, Andy McCarty, Jordan Mynor, Daniel Broderick; Third Row: Colton Thornburg, Ray Shrout, Ben Layne, Kyle Campbell, Cody Fryman, Caleb Briely, Casey Fryman, Jordan Hollar, Jacob Bowles; Fourth Row: Cameron Crawford, Wes Hopkins, Conner Hatten, Jordan Napier, Jared Napier, Justin Jones, Nathan Kirby, Kevin Agee; Fifth Row: John Dalton Wagener, Dillon Fryman

Nicholas County Baseball Roster		
Alex Florence	GF/P	Senior
Johnny Mattox	GF/C	Senior
Michael Reid	1st	Senior
Shane Sweet	OF	Junior
Jim Conyers	IF	Junior
Jordan Mynor	IF/P	Junior
Andy McCarty	IF	Junior
Daniel Broderick	IF	Junior
Cody Fryman	IF	Sophomore
Scotty Campbell	IF/P	Sophomore
Caleb Briely	OF/C	Sophomore
Jordan Hollar	OF	Sophomore
Ben Layne	OF	Sophomore
Jacob Bowles	OF	Sophomore
Ray Shrout	OF	Sophomore
Colton Thornburg	DF/OF	Sophomore
Justin Jones	OF	Freshman
Wes Hopkins	IF	Freshman
Cameron Crawford	OF	Freshman
Jared Napier	OF	Freshman
Kevin Agee	OF	Freshman
Nathan Kirby	IF/P	Freshman
Conner Hatten	OF	Freshman
Dillon Fryman	IF/P	8th grader
John Dalton Wagener	OF/P	7th grader

Sims predicts winning season

By **Hank Bond**
 News Editor
 hank@theCarlislemercury.com

Nicholas County High School Baseball Coach Travis Sims says he believes the Bluejackets will have a winning season this year, and he is looking to his seniors to help make that happen.

"The team finished 12-19 last year, losing several games by a margin of two runs or less. Sims said he is hoping for a better record this season.

"Our goal is to have a winning season and get back to the Regional Tournament," Sims said of this year's squad. "And I want to continue to build a strong program here." Sims said he would be counting on the play of three seniors to guide the team to

Victory. Alex Florence, Michael Reid and Jonathan Mattox, will be returning this year and Sims says they are a trio of leaders. "We have 28 kids on the team, but I'm looking to the three seniors to lead by example. They all try very hard and they are all natural leaders."

Sims said Florence will take on a large chunk of the pitching this year, with Mattox catching and Reid playing first base. When Florence isn't pitching, he'll be switching out with the outfielders.

When asked about the power hitters on the team, Sims chuckled and said, "Well, we don't really have any power hitters." He was quick to point out, however, that Kyle Campbell

is a strong hitter and Florence could receive great discounts at participating stores all year long with the card.

"It helps the players get equipment and helps our school," Sims said of the benefits of the card purchase. Sims said he "loves" baseball and his favorite part of coaching is when a player obtains a greater level of confidence, and achieves more on the field through solid instruction from the coaches.

"Watching the players grow, well, that's what I really love," he added with a broad smile.

Sims invites everyone to catch Blue Jacket fever and come support the team.

SPRING SPORTS

Back from state year, Bretz eyes a great season

By **Hank Bond**

hank@theCarlislemercury.com

"Coming off a strong season, which included 17 wins, a regional championship, plus a fictional championship topped off with a trip to the state tournament, the Nicholas County Lady Jackets softball team — and its coach — have high hopes for another banner year."

"We're not as deep as we have been in the past," second year head coach Barry Bretz said, "but, we're strong."

"We lost six seniors from last year's team. With losing them we have a wealth of talent left that have state tournament experience. We return five starters and our junior varsity team went undefeated last year, 11-0, and all some of the players back from them."

"We expect to have a pretty good year if the weather holds out."

"We return Ashley Bromagen a three-year starter at third, Shelby Sosby returns at shortstop, who started for us last year. Hollie Bretz will be our catcher what will be her fifth year. C. C. Humphries will start out in left field — she started for us out there last year. Shelby Brown will be our pitcher, along with Jessica Gilkerson," the coach said.

"It's rare on a small school team that you've got two girls that started a state tournament game. And both of them pitched well in the state tournament," the coach continued.

Petrea Mitchell and Brandi Messick will share duties at first base for the jackets. Both of them can be an RH (extra hitter). Morgan Kelley will probably be lead-off hitter with her speed.

which will give us a threat. She plays right field or RH. Brittanie Sosby will be the team's starting center fielder."

"Sobly started nearly game for the junior varsity squad last season. According to Bretz she has shown marked improvement to extra the starting spot."

"We have 22 girls on the roster," Bretz said. "This year is different than last year. Last year toward the end of the year we had injuries, which hurt us but we still had a good record."

"The injuries hurt us and set us back until we got into district play."

"This year we cannot have any injuries. We are not deep. We run nine or 10 girls, and I wouldn't trade them for any nine of 10 in the region, but we are going to have much depth."

"We need to develop some depth. I believe our strength will be catching and defense."

"I also believe our pitching will be strong. We have two good pitchers coming back. Our hitting will be fine. We have our three-and-four batters coming back from last year."

"We have speed as well," Bretz said. Ashley Bromagen will hit clean-up for the

Lady Jackets. Gilkerson will start at second base for the Lady Jackets if she is not pitching. Brown only pitches for NCHS to protect her arm. Bretz explained.

Harrison County will again be a strong team and of course a district challenger. For the past four or five years the teams have split in home-and-home decisions.

"We have one of the best teams in the state of Kentucky in the region this year and that is Montgomery County," the coach said.

"They'll be rated in the top five. They're loaded this year."

In pre-season mentions the Lady Jackets have been

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Photo by Dustin Robinson

2008 Lady Jackets Softball Team

Front row: C.C. Humphries, Hollie Bretz, Brandi Messick, Ashley Bromagen; Second row: Jessica Gilkerson, Brittanie Sosby, Kayla Hammond, Shelby Sosby, Petrea Mitchell, and Head Coach Barry Bretz; Third Row: Morgan Kelly, Halli Webb, Haley Bakenom, Christian Dunn, Shelby Brown, Chelsea Markland; Fourth Row: Emily Curran, McKenzie Hopkins, Shannon Bretz, Becky Jolly, Hannah Celdiron, Janis Waggoner, Reese Watson; Not Present was Assistant Coach Penny Bretz

Good luck this season Blue Jackets!

From, **Dawn Letcher**
 859-289-3745 • 123 E. Main St.

D&A Exhaust wishes the 2008-spring sports teams good luck during their upcoming competitions.

348 W. Main St., Carlisle KY • 289-9119

Good luck this spring season, Blue Jackets!

Crockett's IGA
 210 E. Market Street • 859-289-5433

Have a wonderful spring season Jackets!

CONLEY & CONLEY
 227 N. Broadway • 859-289-8339

Have a great season Blue Jackets and Lady Jackets! Play Hard!

CLARK FUNERAL HOME
 165 UPPER LEX. RD. • 289-5500

Have a great season Jackets!

From everyone at **Garrett's Restaurant**
 215 W. Broadway • 289-7582

Carnico Country Club wishes the Blue Jackets luck this spring sports season!

800 Carnico Road • 859-289-5400

Carlisle Gifts and Collectibles 134 E. Main Street, Carlisle KY • 859-289-7718

Good Luck Blue Jackets!

The staff of **Carlisle Drug** would like to wish all sports players a great season!

126 E. Main St. • 289-2246

Have a great season Blue Jackets and Lady Jackets!

From everyone at **Carlisle Clinic**
 107 S. Broadway • 289-4124

Play hard this season Jackets! Good Luck!

C & F Plumbing
 217 E. Chestnut St. • 289-6311

A Little Off The Top 181 Myers Road, Carlisle KY • 859-289-5866

Good Luck Jackets! Have a great season!

GOOD LUCK DURING THE SPRING SPORTS SEASON!

From everyone at **Jerry's Mt. Sterling**
 706 Mayville Road, Mt. Sterling 859-498-1940

Have a great 2008 spring sports season Nicholas County! Go Blue Jackets!

JEFFERSON MACHINERY
 1518 Concord Road • 859-289-5622

Good luck Jackets! Have a fun and great season!

From **Jackie Davis Construction**
 107 S. Broadway • 289-4124

HAVE A GREAT 2008 SPRING SEASON JACKETS!

From everyone at **Hopkin's Drug**
 116 E. Main Street, Carlisle KY 859-289-5122

Georgie Girls wishes the Blue Jackets the best of luck on the upcoming sports season!

859-289-5428

GOOD LUCK JACKETS!

Cedar Hill Retreat
 859-289-2832

Have a great spring season Blue Jackets!

From everyone at **Garrett's Furniture**
 222 W. Main St. • 859-289-2308

Good Luck Blue Jackets and Lady Jackets!

From **Kentucky Farm Bureau**
 246 E. Main St. • 289-5597

Good luck this season! Go Blue Jackets!

East End Food Mart
 305 Morefield Rd. • 289-2200

Have a fantastic spring season Blue Jackets!

- **Dr. Villaflor**

Go Nicholas County! Good luck spring sports teams! Play hard this season!

- **Doug Fryman**

Have a great season!

DONALD BROMAGEN
 ATTORNEY AT LAW
 109 W. Main Street • 289-2261

Nicholas County Sheriff's Office would like to wish Nicholas County athletics a great upcoming spring sports season!

859-289-53740

Good Luck Jackets!

Deposit Bank of Carlisle
 859-289-2205

Play hard Jackets! Good luck!

Dee Jays Auto Parts
 340 W. Main Street • 289-2208