

SPORTS

Lady Jackets come up short versus Harrison

After opening the season 2-0, the Nicholas County High School softball team suffered its first loss of the new campaign Thursday in a district game against Harrison County. Visiting Harrison County defeated the Lady Jackets 7-4 in the 38th district match-up. The game was tied 4-4 going into the seventh inning. Harrison County scored three runs in the seventh inning to move out in front 7-4. Shelby Sosby and Hannah Coldiron had extra base hits for the Lady Jackets. Shelby Brown suffered the pitcher's loss for Nicholas County. Nicholas County played at least 100-percent in the district game versus Harrison County. "We played a winning game against a very good Harrison County team, but we came up a little short," said Nicholas County Coach Barry Bretz. "We were not at full strength against the Pillies with Morgan Kelly being out and Petra playing with a bad shoulder. We played almost our entire team out of position and I was so proud of their effort." Despite playing with less than 100-percent, Nicholas County contended for the district win. "We had several young girls step up and play well," Bretz added. "Mckenzie Hopkins, Hannah Coldiron and Christian Dunn made play after play on short, third and in right for our team. Shelby Sosby would rather be on short, but she understands we need her out at catcher to be able to compete against good teams and she accepts the sacrifice. We are not making excuses about suffering our first loss. Harrison County played a great game. I told the girls this was one of the best Harrison County teams we have faced. If we can continue to improve and play like we did against Harrison County everything will fall into place this season." Harrison County, which improved to 10-3 after posting the win, managed to play five games during the month of March. The unpredictable spring weather has not affected the Pillies as much as it has the Lady Jackets. Nicholas County opened the season with back-to-back wins over Pendleton County and St. Patrick.

Jackets finish runner-up in 10th Region All 'A'

Campbell, McCarty named to all-tournament team. Nicholas County High School baseball team finished runner-up in the 10th Region All 'A' Classic on Saturday. After defeating Paris in the opening round and posting convincing Mercy Rule wins over Deming and Silver Grove, Nicholas County fell to Bishop Brossart in the championship game. Bishop Brossart doubled up Nicholas County 10-5 in the title contest. A breakdown of Nicholas County's run in the 10th Region All 'A' Classic follows. Nicholas 4, Paris 2. Kyle Campbell was winning pitcher as Nicholas County prevailed over Paris in the opening round of the 10th Region All 'A' Classic on Tuesday, April 14. JD Wagener hit a home run in the fifth inning to put Nicholas County out in front 2-1. Casey Fryman also pitched well on the mound with an RBI and a single. Nicholas County 16, Deming 11. Senior Darius Workman pitched Nicholas County past Deming in five innings Thursday. Workman, a transfer from Deming, helped his cause at the plate, collecting three hits Casey Fryman also had three hits for the Jackets. Nicholas County secured an early lead and rolled past longtime rival Deming. JD Wagener came out to pitch for Nicholas County in the fourth inning and pitched the rest of the way for the Jackets. Nicholas County 13, Silver Grove 1. Darius Workman prevailed on the mound for his second win in as many outings for Nicholas County Saturday. The Jackets defeated Silver Grove in five innings. Cody Fryman and Andy McCarty hit home runs for the Jackets in the near shutout win. Bishop Brossart 10, Nicholas County 5. Kyle Campbell absorbed the loss from the Nicholas County in the championship game Saturday. Campbell allowed eight runs in the first four innings. Bishop Brossart, a hot hitting team, exploded at the plate early on in the title bit. "He didn't have his best stuff," Nicholas County Coach Travis Sims said, referring to starting pitcher Kyle Campbell. "He only had three days rest and we knew that going in. Kyle is a competitor and he gave us his best effort." The Jackets didn't go down without offering up some resistance. Nicholas County batted back and made a game of it. The Jackets cut the score to 6-5 going into the top half of the seventh inning. JD Wagener ventured to the mound in the fourth inning and shut Bishop Brossart down until the top half of the seventh frame. Bishop Brossart scored two more runs in the final inning. Workman had to get the last two outs for the Jackets. Nicholas County wasn't without its offensive highlights in the loss. Dylan Fryman, Jake Bowles and Kyle Campbell all hit home runs for the Jackets. "Brossart is a nice team - give them credit," Sims said. "We had JD run on to base the first five innings and that hurt at we couldn't overcome that. I was extremely proud of our guys and the way they battled back and the way they have been competing this year." Campbell and McCarty were Nicholas County players named to the all-tournament team.

Happy Birthday Kenzie! On April 10, Darbey Shea turned 6 years old. HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Love, Mom, Dad, Tyler, Mamaw & Papaw Vice & Damon

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SPORTS

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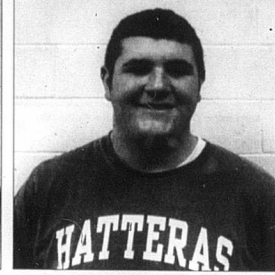
Stephen Tolson

Stephen Tolson settled in quickly and made an immediate impact for the Nicholas County High School track and field program during the 2008 season. Tolson, a senior, joined the NCHS track and field program as a junior last spring. It didn't take him long to earn respect as a thrower. Tolson competes in both the shot put and discus events. He is now thriving in the 2009 season. "Stephen joined the track team during his junior year," Nicholas County High School track and field coach Greg Letcher confided. "His specialties include the shot put and discus." Tolson is steadily climbing his way up in the shot put event. The NCHS senior has surpassed the 40-foot mark. Tolson threw his personal best in the shot put of 40.2' in a meet at EKU (Eastern Kentucky University) earlier in the season. "I would like to see Stephen reach 43 to 44 in the regional meet," said Letcher. Tolson's efforts continue to help the NCHS track and field program as a collective unit. "Stephen has helped improve our track team these past two years by giving us good representation in his two events," said Letcher. "I hope he'll continue to strive to improve over these next couple of weeks." Tolson and his Nicholas County High School track and field teammates have three events remaining in the month of April. NCHS is scheduled to compete at Harrison County (Thursday, April 23) and Scott County (April 28 and 30) before the month of May arrives. This year's regional meet is scheduled to get underway on May 16 at Danville. Four other meets are scheduled in May prior to the regional meet.



Brittany Ritchie

Brittanie Ritchie is new to the sport of softball. Ritchie is in her first season as a member of the Nicholas County High School softball team. The senior outfielder ventured out onto the softball diamond late in her career. "This is the first year for Brittanie (Ritchie)," said Nicholas County High School Coach Greg Bretz. "She is finding out how hard it is at this level to catch up with the fast pitchers we face. I wish we could have gotten Brittanie to come out earlier and have been able to build her swing and confidence level up to be comfortable playing with this level of competition." Despite the late start, according to Bretz, Ritchie continues to improve and display a positive attitude. "She has not given up and continues to be enthused about the game," said Bretz. "We hope this becomes a positive experience for Brittanie and she learns something from us that may help her in her life ventures." Ritchie is part of a Nicholas County High School softball program that is rich in tradition. The Lady Jackets annually contend for district and regional championships. Nicholas County, which has been hindered by less than ideal weather in the first half of the current regular season, entered the week 2-1. The Lady Jackets own wins over Pendleton County and St. Patrick. Ritchie wears No. 45 for the NCHS softball team.



Daniel Broderick

Senior infielder Daniel Broderick is a veteran for the Nicholas County High School baseball team. Broderick has been around the block for the NCHS baseball program. His knowledge of the game has allowed him to contribute over the past four years - both in games, in the dugout during games and in practices. "Daniel has been a member of the baseball team for four years," Nicholas County High School Coach Travis Sims confided. "He is a great person to be around and has great knowledge of the game. He has been a part-time contributor on the field." Broderick, who has played numerous positions at various times on the baseball diamond for NCHS, has always placed a high emphasis on his classroom work and will continue his studies at the state's most well known college. "Daniel plans to go to the University of Kentucky for college," Sims said. "I'm 100-percent positive that Daniel will have a successful future where ever life takes him." Broderick and his Nicholas County High School baseball teammates finished runner-up in this year's 10th Region All 'A' Classic. Following wins over Paris, Deming and Silver Grove, Nicholas County fell to Bishop Brossart of Saturday in the 10th Region All 'A' Classic championship game. Broderick and the Baseball Jacket's owned an 8-1 record through their first dozen games. One of the NCHS baseball team's most experienced players, Broderick wears No. 35.

NCHS track team compete in All 'A' Classic

The Nicholas County High School track and field program, under the direction of Coach Greg Letcher, competed in the All 'A' Classic at Danville on Thursday (April 16). Megan Hunter led the NCHS track and field program with a first-place finish in the girls' discus event. A breakdown of the NCHS track and field team's results from the All 'A' Classic follows. Girls' Discus - Megan Hunter, 1st. Shot Put - Kimber Letcher, Halley McConnell, Mandi McLean, 4th. 4 x 100 Relay - Kayla Livingood, Kimber Letcher, Antonia Peitsch, Mandi McLean, 5th. Boys' Shot Put - Stephen Tolson, 3rd. High Jump - Cade Gilliland, 200 Meter Dash - Cody Devin Johnson, Cody Smith, 5th. Cameron Dale, Jay (Jesse) Smith, Cade Jaki Blakeman, 4th. 4 x 200 Relay - (Jesse) Smith, Cameron Dale, 5th. Cameron Dale, Caleb Pope, 5th. 300 Hurdles - Matthew Kelley, 4th. Tedder, Matthew Kelley, 200 Meter Dash - Cody Devin Johnson, Cody Smith, 5th.

NCHS baseball pitching staff remains consistent

Pitching is a concern for all baseball teams on all levels. Pitchers have to throw strikes for any team to have a chance to be in a game, let alone win. This season, Nicholas County High School baseball pitchers have thrown strikes and helped to keep the Jackets in games. Nicholas County's three pitchers - Kyle Campbell, Darius Workman and JD Wagener - have tossed the majority of innings for the NCHS baseball team. "Pitching has been consistent for the most part," said Nicholas County Coach Travis Sims. "Kyle Campbell and Darius Workman have far JD Wagener has filled in some spots and been a nice addition to our staff." The NCHS baseball coaching staff is eagerly awaiting the return of Jordan Myneer, a pitcher who has been sidelined since fall when he suffered a season-ending injury during football season. "Jordan Myneer should be getting some action starting this week and that will be a big lift for our team as he was the heart and soul of our pitching rotation last year," Sims said. Workman, a senior who made the transfer to Nicholas County from Deming, has been a great addition for the NCHS baseball program. "When you have Darius on the mound or the field you know what you are going to get all the time," Sims said. "He will compete every time he is out there. He is the type that never wants to be taken out of the game no matter what situation we are in. He carries himself well on the mound. Darius will throw strikes and compete with every batter he faces and does it with confidence so when he is pitching it makes a coach feel pretty good over in the dugout." In a dozen games, Nicholas County has outscored opponents 113-79. The Jackets are currently ranked sixth in the 10th Region.

Players Of The Week

Christian Dunn. Playing out of position(s) Christian defensive games for us. Andy McCarty - 10-14 in the All A Tournament. Hit his first HR. All Tournament Team.

Follow the Jackets and Lady Jackets on 90.7 FM The Wind

NCHS Boys' Baseball VS Deming April 28- airtime 4:50. NCHS Boys' Baseball VS Pendleton County April 30- airtime 4:50. NCHS Girls' Softball VS Mason County May 6- airtime 5:20. NCHS VS Lexington Christian H May 12- airtime 4:50. Brought to you in part by The Carlisle Mercury, Nicholas County's News Source since 1867