

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT PREVIEW



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TOURNAMENT
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49TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT

Heavily-favored Jaguars look to win third straight crown



FILE PHOTO

The Jaguars are led by senior Reed Sheppard. The University of Kentucky signee, and McDonald's All-American leads the Jaguars with a 22.4 scoring average, and an 8.6 rebounding average.

By Les Dixon
For the Sentinel Echo

LONDON — Coming into the season, the prognosticators tagged North Laurel as the team to beat in the 49th District, and things aren't any different today.

The Jaguars captured the district's top seed by dominating their opponents. They compiled a 7-0 mark while winning by an average of 47.2 points per game.

Clay County captured the No. 2 seed with a 6-2 mark while Jackson County

earned the No. 3 seed with a 4-4 record. Oneida Baptist turned in a 2-6 record, good enough for the No. 4 seed while No. 5 seed Red Bird posted an 0-7 mark against 49th District teams.

No. 1 North Laurel (18-10)

Don't let the Jaguars' overall record fool you, no team in the region, and maybe even state, has played a tougher slate than Nate Valentine's squad.

North Laurel has been tested early and often against not only some of the best

teams in the state, but nationally as well.

The Jaguars are led by senior Reed Sheppard.

The University of Kentucky signee, and McDonald's All-American leads the Jaguars with a 22.4 scoring average, and an 8.6 rebounding average.

Senior Ryan Davidson is also another scoring threat for North Laurel. He's averaging 18.2 points per game, and 5.5 rebounds per game.

Coach Nate Valentine will also look for Gavin Chadwell (11.6, 5.4), long-range specialist Brody Brock (9.7, 2.5), and Colton Rawlings (7.0, 2.3) to provide scoring and rebounding.

Chase Keen (3.0, 2.4), Kyler Elza (4.9, 2.3), Reece Davidson (2.8, 1.3), and Kole Jervis (2.5, 0.3) provide experience off the bench.

North Laurel swept through district play with easy wins over Clay County (94-64, 94-64), Jackson County (80-31, 90-47), Oneida Baptist (105-40, 95-39), and Red Bird (89-31).

The Jaguars are winners of 20 straight against district opponents while capturing the last two 49th District championships. If they win the title next week, it will mark the fifth time in six years they've accomplished the feat.

49TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT AT NORTH LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Feb. 20
First Round

Red Bird vs. Oneida Baptist, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 22
Semifinals

Red Bird/OBI winner vs. North Laurel, 6 p.m.

Clay County vs. Jackson County, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24
Finals

TBD, 7 p.m.

No. 2 Clay County (12-14)

The Tigers' season has been a roller-coaster. Many ups and downs, yet Clay County has a chance to turn things around once postseason play begins.

Glenn Gray's squad posted a 6-2 mark against district opponents with their wins against Jackson County (55-50, 66-57), Oneida Baptist (76-43, 85-58), and Red

SEE 49TH BOYS, PAGE 8B

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49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT



FILE PHOTOS

The Lady Jaguars are loaded with talent once again with the program's career leader in points scored, Emily Sizemore, leading the way. Sizemore is averaging 16.0 points per game, and 7.9 rebounds per game. She is also the team leader that brings a lot of intangibles to the table for coach Eddie Mahan.

North Laurel eyes sixth consecutive district crown

By Les Dixon
For the Sentinel Echo

LONDON — No team has dominated the 49th District like North Laurel has the past few years.

And the scary thing is, the dominance is expected to last for a while longer.

The Lady Jaguars enter next week's district tournament winners of five straight titles and 39 consecutive games against 49th District opponents.

They posted a 6-0 mark this season with two wins over Jackson County (55-48, 55-47), Clay County (65-33, 69-31), and Oneida Baptist (90-12, 66-11).

Jackson County enters as the No. 2 seed and is the biggest threat to unseat the Lady Jaguars as district champions.

The Lady Generals posted a 4-2 mark against district opponents with their lone two losses coming against North Laurel (55-48, 55-47).

They possess two wins over Clay County (63-34, 71-39), and Oneida Baptist (62-5, 50-11).

The Lady Tigers have struggled of Kate, posting a 2-4 mark which garnered them the No. 3 seed. They're going to have to find a way to get past Jackson County if they want a berth into the regional tournament.

The Lady Tigers are 0-2 (63-34, 71-39) against the Lady Generals. Clay County is also 0-2 against North Laurel (65-33, 69-



Brooke Nicholson is averaging 14.2 points per game, and 5.1 rebounds per game, and is arguably the best defender in the region, and one of the best in the state. Nicholson's athleticism is second to none.

49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT AT NORTH LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday, Feb. 21
Semifinals

North Laurel vs. OBI, 6 p.m.
Clay County vs. Jackson County, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23
Finals

TBD, 7 p.m.

31), but 2-0 against Oneida Baptist (62-14, 65-9).

Oneida Baptist enters the tournament as the No. 4 seed, and will be hard pressed to pull the upset against top-seeded North Laurel.

The Lady Mountaineers are 0-6 against district opponents, and 0-21 all-time against the Lady Jaguars.

No. 1 North Laurel (22-6)

One of the state's toughest slates has prepared North Laurel for a deep postseason run.

The Lady Jaguars are loaded with talent once again with the program's career

leader in points scored, Emily Sizemore, leading the way.

Sizemore is averaging 16.0 points per game, and 7.9 rebounds per game. She is also the team leader that brings a lot of intangibles to the table for coach Eddie Mahan.

Brooke Nicholson is averaging 14.2 points per game, and 5.1 rebounds per game, and is arguably the best defender in the region, and one of the best in the state. Nicholson's athleticism is second to none.

Chloe McKnight is one of the best post players around. She's not only a shot blocker but she can score with the best of

them. McKnight is averaging 13.8 points per game, and 8.7 rebounds per game.

It doesn't end there.

Players such as Bella Sizemore (7.7, 3.3), Jaelyn Black (5.7, 1.7), Mariella Claybrook (3.5, 4.7), Gracie McKnight (3.1, 3.7), and Emma Karl (0.8, 1.0) contribute as well.

2. Jackson County (18-7)

If there is a team that can surprise North Laurel, it could very well be Jackson County.

The Lady Generals are 4-2 against 49th

SEE 49TH GIRLS, PAGE 8B



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50TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT



FILE PHOTOS

Corbin is led by senior Hayden Llewellyn (16.8, 3.9). Llewellyn is a proven scorer, and one of the top players in the region.

Redhounds top seed, but Cards seeking fifth consecutive title

By Les Dixon
For the Sentinel Echo

LONDON — The 50th District Tournament could turn out to be the most exciting with all four teams having a good shot when they'd playing their 'A' game.

Corbin enters at the top seed after posting a 5-1 mark against district teams. The Redhounds went 2-0 against Whitley County (79-67, 79-66), and Williamsburg (80-71, 83-58) while splitting a pair of games against South Laurel — Corbin won at home, 62-53; Cardinals won at home, 73-55.

South Laurel enters as the No. 2 seed after posting a 4-2 district mark. The Cardinals are winners of four straight 50th District titles, and posted a 2-0 mark against Williamsburg (69-25, 62-36) this season.

They also split a pair of games against their semifinal opponent, Whitley County (lost in overtime on the road, 57-56, won at home, 68-31). South Laurel also split a pair of games against Corbin, winning at home, 73-55 while falling on the road, 62-53.

Eric Swords has his Colonels ready to make a run after posting a 3-3 mark in dis-



For South Laurel, it all begins with Eli Gover, who consistently contains the main offensive players of opposing teams. Gover is also solid on the offensive side, too, averaging 14.2 points per game, and 2.7 rebounds per game.

trict play while notching the No. 3 seed in the process.

Whitley County split a pair of games against its semifinal opponent South Laurel (for scores, see above), and dropped two games against Corbin (for scores, see above). The Colonels' came away with two

wins against No. 4 seed Williamsburg (80-66, 87-78).

The Yellow Jackets have talent and can't be overlooked despite posting an 0-6 mark against 50th District teams this season.

No. 1 Corbin

The Redhounds have quietly flown un-

der the raider the entire season. Coach Tony Pietrowski's squad possesses the deepest bench in the district arguably the entire 13th Region.

Corbin entered the last week of regular

SEE 50TH BOYS, PAGE 9B

50TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT AT SOUTH LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday, Feb. 21
Semifinals

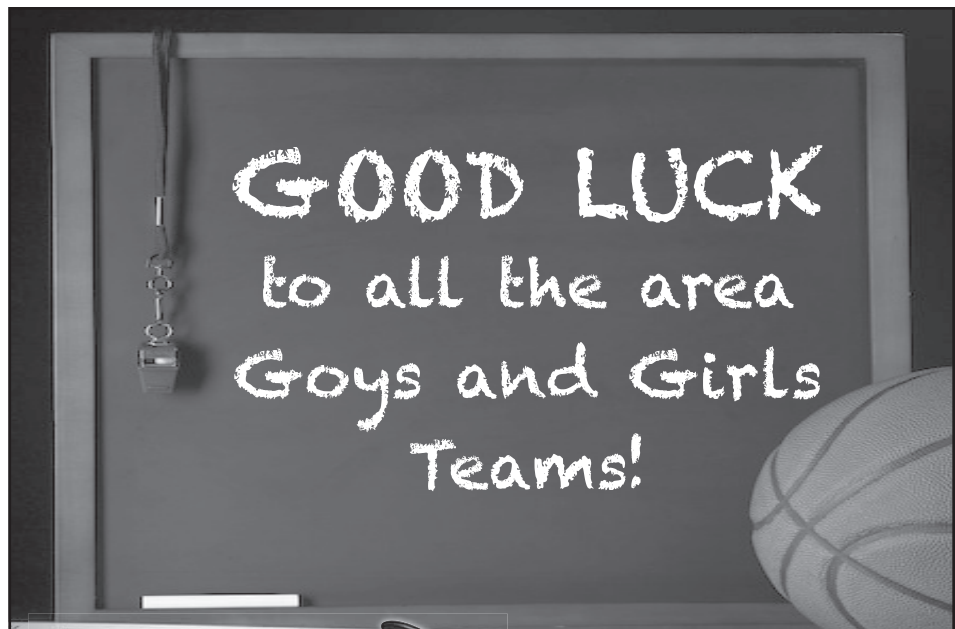
Corbin vs. Williamsburg, 6 p.m.
South Laurel vs. Whitley County, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 24
Finals

TBD, 7 p.m.



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50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT



FILE PHOTOS

Led by the trio of Kylie Clem (pictured), Kallie Housley, and Darcie Anderson, Corbin can be explosive on the offensive end during any game.

Lady Redhounds look to repeat as 50th District champs



The Lady Cardinals are young but are led by experienced senior Emily Cox, who can take over games. She'll need to continue her impressive play if South Laurel is going to attempt to reclaim the 50th District title.

By Les Dixon
For the Sentinel Echo

LONDON — The Corbin Lady Redhounds might have hit a bump or two close to the end of regular season play but it doesn't change the fact they'll enter the upcoming 50th District Tournament as the clear-cut favorite.

The defending 50th District and 13th Region champion cruised past their district opponents this season while garnering a perfect 6-0 district record.

Corbin defeated South Laurel (68-56, 72-54), Whitley County (70-24, 73-22), and Williamsburg (65-26, 62-35) to capture the district's top seed.

Chris Souder's South Laurel Lady Cardinals are the No. 2 seed despite graduating a lot of experience and talent from last season. They swept a pair of games against both Whitley County (72-45, 71-

say the least for Sean Pigman's Whitley County Lady Colonels.

With two losses apiece to both Corbin (70-24, 73-22), and South Laurel (72-45, 71-31), and two wins against Williamsburg (57-45, 66-59), Whitley County managed to earn the No. 3 seed.

Williamsburg has struggled at times this season but has also improved each game. The Lady Yellow Jackets posted an 0-6 district mark with two losses apiece to Corbin (65-26, 62-35), South

SEE 50TH GIRLS, PAGE 9B

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31), and Williamsburg (84-33, 86-43) while dropping two games to Corbin (68-56, 72-54).

It's been an up and down season to

50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT AT SOUTH LAUREL HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Feb. 20
Semifinals
Corbin vs. Williamsburg, 6 p.m.
South Laurel vs. Whitley County, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23
Finals
TBD, 7 p.m.

51ST DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT



Led by the region's leading scorer, Micah Engle, Lynn Camp is hoping to pull off an upset against semifinal opponent Barbourville. Engle can do it all on offense. He's scored at least 50 points twice during the past two weeks.

Knox Central's bid to win 8th straight title is on the line



FILE PHOTOS

Duane Sparks has also turned in a stellar season for the Wildcats. Sparks is averaging 13.5 points per game, and 6.9 rebounds per game.

Their lone win came against Lynn Camp (74-69) with losses coming against Pineville (82-66), and Barbourville (56-27).

Chris Taylor's Tigers enter the 51st District Tournament as the top seed af-

SEE 51ST BOYS, PAGE 10B

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By Les Dixon
For the Sentinel Echo

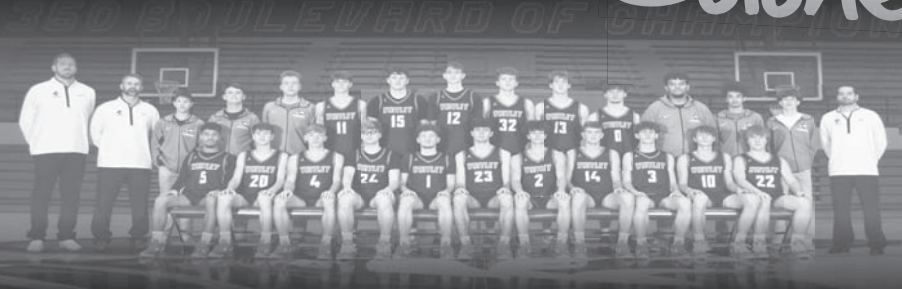
PINEVILLE — The Knox Central Panthers have dominated the 51st District Tournament the past seven years but

things could be different this season.

Kris Mills' Panthers have won the last seven district championships but enter this year's tournament as the No. 3 seed after posting a 1-2 mark.

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51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT



FILE PHOTOS

The Lady Wildcats are led by senior Abby Mabe, who averages 12.5 points per game, and 3.9 rebounds per game. Mabe is a solid defender as well, entering the tournament as one of the top defensive players.

Can anyone knock off heavily-favored Knox Central?

By Les Dixon
For the Sentinel Echo

PINEVILLE — Both Knox Central and Pineville enter next week's 51st District Tournament as favorites to advantage to the 13th Region Tournament.

The 51st District is a little different than the 59th, 50th, and 52nd Districts where the Knox Central, Pineville, Lynn Camp, and Barbourville only play each other in one district matchup unlike a home and away series the other three districts do.

The Lady Panthers cruised to the 51st District's top seed with a 3-0 mark, beating Pineville (67-48), Lynn Camp (69-27), and Barbourville (77-32).

Pineville is the No. 2 seed with wins

over Lynn Camp (64-33), and Barbourville (69-43) while losing to Knox Central (67-48).

Lynn Camp's lone win, a 67-43 victory over Barbourville gave the Lady Wildcats the No. 3 seed.

Josh Mobley's squad dropped contests to both Pineville (64-33), and Knox Central (69-27).

Barbourville failed to win a 51st District game, and posted an 0-3 mark with losses to Knox Central (77-32), Pineville (69-43), and Lynn Camp (67-43).

No. 1 Knox Central (18-5)

The Lady Panthers have turned in an impressive regular season, and will enter the 51st District Tournament as the team to beat.

Knox Central is led by sophomore Halle Collins, who has had a double-double in every game this season.

She leads the team with a 27.1 scoring average while pulling down 14.1 boards per game.

Collins can do it all for the Lady Panthers. Need a block, steal or assist? She can do that, too.

With that said, coach Steve Warren possesses a lot of firepower with players such as long-range specialist Timber-



Alissa Crumpler is a hard worker that gets the job done in the paint, averaging 10.5 points per game, and a team-best 5.8 rebounds per game.

ly Fredrick (11.9, 1.5), who has hit 67 3-pointers this season. Also joining Collins and Fredrick are Hannah Melton (4.4, 3.6), McKenzie Hensley (4.3, 2.1), Kelsie Smith (3.8, 1.0), Reagan Jones (5.1, 3.1), Jaylynn Fain (3.9, 5.5), and Zoey Hamil-

ton (2.1, 1.1).

No. 2 Pineville (19-7)

Elgie Green has done a fantastic job turning the Lady Mountain Lions back

SEE 51ST GIRLS, PAGE 10B

51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT AT PINEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
Monday, February 20
Semifinals
Barbourville vs. Knox Central, 6 p.m.
Pineville vs. Knox Central, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23
Finals
TBD, 7 p.m.

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Senior Ryan Davidson is another scoring threat for North Laurel. He's averaging 18.2 points per game, and 5.5 rebounds per game.

FILE PHOTOS

49TH BOYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2B

Bird (93-14, 1-0 forfeit).

Clay County is led by their big three trio of Hayden Harris, Landon Dezarn, and Ethan Jackson.

Harris is averaging 19.4 points per game and 6.4 rebounds per game. Dezarn is another solid offensive weapon with his solid long-range shooting along with a 14.2 scoring average. Jackson is averaging 10 points per contest while 1.6 rebounds per game.

The Tigers will also rely on Aiden Wagers (7.8, 5.9), Grayson Hooker (4.1, 8), and Elijah Bundy (4.8, 6.8).

If Clay County is going to earn a region tournament berth, the Tigers will have to get past Jackson County. They've been able to do that twice this season with an average margin of victory of seven points.

No. 3 Jackson County (16-11)

The Generals have turned in a surprising season so far, and have the talent to keep surprising.

But to do so, they've got to find a way to get past Clay County, a team that has beaten Jackson County twice this season, 55-50, and 66-57.

The Generals have a 4-4 mark against 49th District teams with two wins apiece against Red Bird (88-29, 76-11), and Oneida Baptist (78-29, 87-51) while their other two losses have come against top seeded North Laurel (80-31, 90-47).

Jackson County is led by Jude Lakes, (15.8, 5.0), Tydus Summers (13.8, 4.0), and Carter Cunagin (10.5, 6.9).

Players such as Keagan Ward (9.0, 7.1), Andrew Gabbard (5.8, 1.5), and Peyton Singleton (3.8, 2.0) are expected to contribute as well.

No. 4 Oneida Baptist (9-18)

First year coach Mitchell Madden has done a fantastic job with the Mountaineers.

Oneida Baptist has nine wins while posting a 2-6 mark against 49th District opponents. They'll be hard pressed to reach the region tournament but Madden



Coach Nate Valentine will also look for Gavin Chadwell (pictured), long-range specialist Brody Brock, and Colton Rawlings to provide scoring and rebounding.

has the program headed in the right direction.

Oneida Baptist's lone two district wins came against Red Bird (85-29, 67-27). If the Mountaineers beat the Cardinals for a third time this season, they will face-off against No. 1 seed North Laurel, who has beaten Oneida Baptist, 105-40, and 95-39, this season.

The Mountaineers are led by Canaan Tyree (20.8, 4.2), Daniel Etokwudo (13.3, 10.2), Jacob Rogers (8.9, 3.2), and Skyler Roberts (7.1, 3.6).

No. 5 Red Bird (5-15)

It's been a long season for the Cardinals, but they did get some momentum recently with two consecutive wins heading into the final week of regular season play.

Red Bird posted an 0-7 mark against 49th District teams, including two losses to first round opponent Oneida Baptist (85-29, 67-27).

Felix Onosumba leads the Cardinals with a 13.6 scoring average while Austin Osborne is averaging 7.4 points per game. Daughson Whitehead is averaging 5.7 points per game.



Chloe McKnight is one of the best post players around. She's not only a shot blocker but she can score with the best of them. McKnight is averaging 13.8 points per game, and 8.7 rebounds per game.

49TH GIRLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3B

District opponents with their lone two losses coming against the Lady Jaguars.

Even though they lost meetings, they were close.

Jackson County dropped 55-47, and 55-48 decisions to North Laurel.

The Lady Generals also have a lot of star power.

They're led by sophomore Abby Gilbert (16.3, 10.8), who has already surpassed 1,000 career points. Gilbert is a solid defender.

Kenady Ward ranks as one of the best post players in the region with her 12.1 scoring average. She also averages 6.1 rebounds per game.

Joining Ward, and Gilbert are Kylee Shannon (10.0, 5.9), Maddy Curry (7.4, 3.4), and Jenna Creech (6.0, 3.9). Shannon has the ability to score points quickly while Curry is an outside threat shooting the 3.

Madison Marcum (5.0, 0.9), and Ady-cin Truett (3.7, 1.0) supply solid minutes for Jackson County, too.

No. 3 Clay County (10-17)

The Tigers just can't seem to put

anything together so far this season.

Their longest win streak of the season (three games) was followed by their longest losing skid (four games).

Clay County is 0-2 (63-34, 71-39) against its semifinal opponent Jackson County, and 0-2 against North Laurel (65-33, 69-31), but 2-0 against Oneida Baptist (62-14, 65-9).

The Lady Tigers are led by MacKenzie Sizemore (10.3, 7.8), Sidney Jones (9.5, 5.1), Laurny Sizemore (9.0, 1.7), and Jaylen Combs (8.5, 2.6).

Also giving solid minutes for Clay County will be Madison Penland (1.8, 0.6), Brianna Swafford (1.0, 1.6), and Mia Hibbard (1.2, 0.3).

No. 4 Oneida Baptist (2-19)

With only two wins under their belts this season, the odds are stacked high for the Lady Mountaineers to get past semifinal opponent North Laurel.

Oneida Baptist has never beaten the Lady Jaguars, losing all 21 meetings between the two schools.

Bailey Bayes (8.6, 5.1), Charity Carpenter (2.9, 2.1), Jasmine Khasupawatchara (2.8, 2.7), Yeabsira Asrat (2.1, 2.6), and Emily Wagers (2.6, 4.7) lead the way for Oneida Baptist.

GOOD LUCK
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The Colonels are talented enough to pull off the win but players such as Ashton Reynolds (pictured), Jamie Fuson, and Jackson Petrey along with Brayden Mahan, Evan Ellis, Bryce Anderson, Danny Ellis, Ethan Keene, and Lucas Queener will need to bring their 'A' game to the table.



FILE PHOTOS

Williamsburg is led by one of the top players in the region in Jerrod Roark, who is averaging 21.2 points per game, and 5.9 rebounds per game.

50TH BOYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4B

season play with an eight-game win streak. The Redhounds also possess a 2-0 record against semifinal opponent Williamsburg. The average margin of victory of their two wins over the Yellow Jackets is 17 points. Corbin is led by senior Hayden Llewellyn (16.8, 3.9). Llewellyn is a proven scorer, and one of the top players in the region. But that's not all. The Redhounds' cupboard is loaded. Carter Stewart (11.2, 2.8), Trey Worley (9.3, 5.9), Eli Pietrowski (9.0, 5.2), Zander Curry (8.1, 6.5), Brody Wells (8.5, 5.3), Marc Warren (5.9, 4.0) and Kade Elam (4.5, 1.9) each provide quality minutes for Corbin.

2. South Laurel (20-7)

Is there is a better defensive team in the 13th Region? The Cardinals were limiting opponents to a stingy 48.7 points per game heading into the final week of regular season play. Jeff Davis' squad has improved as the season progresses, and one of the main reasons is due to its tenacious defensive play. South Laurel will need to continue to turn in a solid defensive effort when it goes against No. 3 seed Whitley County. In their against the Colonels, the Cardinals limited their opponent to a season-low 31 points, but during their overtime loss, they allowed 57 points. It all begins with Eli Gover, who consistently has contained South Laurel's opponents' main offensive player. Gover is also solid on the offensive side, too, averaging

14.2 points per game, and 2.7 rebounds per game. Jordan Mabe has turned in a stellar season, and can dominate on both ends of the floor. He's a top notch shot blocker and scorer (13.9), and leads the team with a 6.9 rebounds per game average. Parker Payne (13.0, 4.7) has the ability to take over games while Caden Jones is impressive on both ends of the court. He's a solid defensive player, and can come up with the big basket when needed. He's averaging 7.7 points per game, and 3.8 rebounds per game. Davis will also rely on Ashton Garland (6.7, 2.3), Joshua Steele (3.2, 2.1), Hunter Bundy (0.9, 0.9), and Max Fullmer (1.9, 0.8).

3. Whitley County (19-8)

Eric Swords' Colonels are ready to take the next step and make a run at the 50th District and 13th Region crowns. But to do so, Whitley County is going to have to find a way to beat South Laurel on its home court.

The Colonels did beat the Cardinals earlier, 57-56 in overtime, but it was at Whitley County. The Colonels dropped a 68-31 decision at South Laurel. The last time the Colonels defeated the Cardinals at the Cardinal Nest was back on Feb. 22, 2011 during semifinal action of the 50th District Tournament — Chris Baker was the coach of Whitley County, and Steve Wright was still coaching the Cardinals.

The Colonels are talented enough to pull off the win but players such as Ashton Reynolds (15.9, 4.3), Jamie Fuson (11.1, 4.3), and Jackson Petrey (5.0, 4.7) along with Brayden Mahan (12.4, 4.1), Evan Ellis (9.9, 1.4), Bryce Anderson (7.2, 3.3), Danny Ellis (4.0, 2.3), Ethan Keene (3.9, 3.2), and Lucas Queener (1.7, 1.1) will need to bring their 'A' game to the table.

No. 4 Williamsburg (13-14)

The Yellow Jackets have stumbled a bit heading into the last week of regular season but that doesn't mean Corbin will overlook them. Anthony Hibbard's squad might have posted an 0-6 mark against 50th District opponents, but the Redhounds know Williamsburg isn't a team to overlook. The Yellow Jackets have the ability to put up points quickly. They've scored at least 80 points 10 times this season. They're led by one of the top players in the region in Jerrod Roark, who is averaging 21.2 points per game, and 5.9 rebounds per game. Roark will depend on Henry Bowling (12.6, 2.5), Andrew Smith (11.2, 6.5), Ryder Akins (10.9, 2.5), Connor Lay (6.5, 3.3), Cooper Prewitt (4.8, 3.3), Conner Saylor (3.5, 1.1) and Cade Hatcher (2.6, 1.9) to help pull Williamsburg through during its semifinal matchup against Corbin.



FILE PHOTO

Williamsburg is led by eighth-grader Maddy Hopkins, who has the knack to find the basket while rebounding with the best of them.

50TH GIRLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5B

Laurel (84-33, 86-43), and Whitley County (57-45, 66-59).

No. 1 Corbin (18-8)

Even though the Lady Redhounds went through a rough stretch right before the end of regular season play that saw them go 1-3, the road to the 50th District title goes through Corbin. Isaac Wilson's team has played one of the toughest schedules in the region, and is battle-tested for another deep postseason run. The Lady Redhounds are led by a solid nucleus of players that have the experience to lead them to another repeat performance. Led by the trio of Kylie Clem (16.4, 4.4), Kallie Housley (16.2, 4.4), and Darcie Anderson (11.7, 2.5), Corbin can be explosive on the offensive end during any game. Add Bailey Stewart (7.8, 3.2), Raegan Walker (6.6, 7.2), Mahayla Jordan (2.6, 2.5), Izzy Walker (2.0, 1.7), and Addie Wilson (1.3, 1.2) to the mix and you can see why they're still considered the team to beat in the 50th District, and 13th Region.

2. South Laurel (16-7)

The Lady Cardinals have showed signs that they could make a run at both the 50th District, and 13th Region championships. They are young but are led by experienced senior Emily Cox, who can take over games. She'll need to continue her impressive play if South Laurel is going to attempt to reclaim the 50th Dis-



Jonna Rice (10.0, 7.6) leads Whitley County in scoring and rebounding

trict title. Cox leads the Lady Cardinals with an 18.9 scoring average, and a 6.1 rebounds per game average. She is joined by a young, and talented group of players, which are mostly eighth graders. Shelbie Mills (11.1, 1.9) has turned in a stellar season running the offense for the Lady Cardinals while Skeeter Mabe has shown she has the ability to take over a game with her size. She's

SEE SOUTH, PAGE 14B



HOMESTEAD/ DISABILITY EXEMPTION INCREASING!



L to R: Katie Williams, Bryan Cunigan, Pam Gilbert, Michael Peters, Don McFadden, Kendra Cress, Luke Moore & Camille Eaton.

Good news!

The state legislature has increased the exemption from \$40,500 to \$46,350 for years 2023 & 2024. If you are turning 65 this year and own and occupy your home as of January 1, 2023, you are eligible for the Homestead Exemption. Please visit our office, call or visit our website at www.laurelpva.com to apply. Exemption is also available if 100% disabled.

Laurel County PVA

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Good Luck to all the boys and girls teams!

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51ST GIRLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7B

into a cinder for the 51st District, and 13th Region crowns.

Pineville possesses one of the top guards in the region with Nadine Johnson.

Johnson (21.8, 9.1) is another player that can dominate on both ends of the floor. Very talented, and athletic that can hurt opposing teams with her outside shot, and driving abilities.

Ava Arnett is another offensive weapon for the Lady Mountain Lions. Arnett averages 11.5 points per game along with a 4.4 rebounding average. One of the most underrated players is Abigail Jackson. Jackson is averaging 11 points per game, and 1.7 rebounds per game.

Rachel Howard (8.4, 6.7), Malley Smith (3.8, 2.0), and Kamryn Biliter (2.6, 2.4) are also players that contribute solid minutes for Pineville.

No. 3 Lynn Camp (6-22)

Josh Mobley's first-year as head coach of the Lady Wildcats has seen some ups and downs, but the big key is Lynn Camp has improved each game it has played.

The Lady Wildcats are led by senior Abby Mabe, who averages 12.5 points per game, and 3.9 rebounds per game. Mabe is a solid defender as well, entering the tournament as one of the top defensive players.

Alissa Crumpler is a hard worker that gets the job done in the paint, averaging 10.5 points per game, and a team-best 5.8 rebounds per game.

Lauren Partin (4.7, 4.8), Isabella Blevins (1.3), Julie Moore (4.0, 5.2), and Lindsey Cox (3.2, 3.1) have also turned in stellar play this season for Lynn Camp.

If the Lady Wildcats are going to pull the upset against Pineville, it's going to take a total team effort.

No. 4 Barbourville (4-16)

The Lady Tigers face a tough task if they want to get to the 13th Region Tournament.

They've got to find some way to upset Knox Central. They have lost 17 straight against the Lady Panthers with their last



Lauren Partin (pictured), Isabella Blevins, Julie Moore, and Lindsey Cox have also turned in stellar play this season for Lynn Camp.

win coming way back on Jan. 8, 2014.

Barbourville junior Sarah Smith leads the team with a 15.4 scoring average, and a 9.8 rebounding average. Smith is one of

the most underrated players in the 13th Region.

Joining Smith are Layla Brock (9.7, 6.4), Lauren Smith (5.9, 5.7), Danni

Jordan (5.4, 4.6), Marleigh Martin (4.6, 2.5), Cheyenne Sizemore (2.7, 2.9), Leah Bruce (2.1, 2.1), and Emilee Sizemore (1.5, 2.8).

51ST BOYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6B

ter posting a perfect 3-0 mark. Wins over Lynn Camp (77-58), Knox Central (56-27), and Pineville (70-49) give many prognosticators the belief that Barbourville is the team to beat.

Brad Levy's Mountain Lions could have the day so. Pineville is the No. 2 seed, and could end up being a third in Barbourville's side of the Tigers get past Lynn Camp, and the Mountain Lions survive Knox Central.

Levy's squad's only district loss came to Barbourville (70-49) while Pineville defeated Lynn Camp (81-72), and Knox Central (82-66).

Rodney Clarke's Wildcats are a dangerous No. 4 seed even with their 0-3 district record.

They hung tough in all three of their contests before losing to Barbourville (77-58), Knox Central (74-69), and Pineville (81-72).

No. 1 Barbourville

The Tigers look to be in prime position to win their first 51st District crown in eight years.

They were able to post a 3-0 mark against 51st District teams thanks to a talented group of players.

Matt Warren is one of the best in the region. He's a great shooter, and penetrator to the basket.

Warren averages 19.3 points per game, and 3.8 rebounds per game. Travis Scott is averaging 14.1 points per game while leading the Givers with an 8.4 rebounding effort. Transfer KT Turner has been a great addition to Barbourville, averaging 17.6 points per game, and 5.8 rebounds per game.

Coach Taylor also relies on Ethan Smith (6.7, 1.5), Ty Clark (6.1, 2.6), Jacob Lundy (4.0, 2.8), Bryce Messer (1.9, 0.6), and Ethan Fisher (1.6, 1.4) to provide quality minutes for the Tigers.

No. 2 Pineville (16-8)

The Mountain Lions have been a pleasant surprise this season, as Brad Levy has turned his squad into a district, and regional contender.

Pineville is young and talented, led by the talented sophomore duo of Sawyer Thompson, and Ashton Moser.

Thompson is one of the top scorers in the region with a 22.5 scoring average. He is also averaging 5.0 rebounds per game. Moser can score as well, as his 16.5 scoring average shows. He also leads the Mountain Lions with a 6.9 rebounding average.

Evan Biliter is a force in the paint, averaging 10.0 points per game while pulling down 4.1 rebounds per game. Sam Caldwell is one of the most underrated players in the district with his 7.8 scoring average, and 4.7 rebounding average.

Wyatt Caldwell (4.4, 1.7), Kaiden Robbins (2.3, 1.2), Ashton Burns (1.2, 3.1), and Charles Abner (1.6, 1.7) are also expected to contribute.

No. 3 Knox Central (4-23)

It's been a long season for the Panthers, but things could change in a hurry if they can find a way to get past Pineville during



FILE PHOTOS

Ethan Burd is tossing in 5.0 points per game while grabbing a team-best 7.5 rebounds per game for Lynn Camp.

semifinal action of the 51st District Tournament.

If Knox Central is going to win its eighth straight district title, players such as Braydon Mills (13.8, 3.8), and Austin Bargo (12.3, 3.9) must bring their 'A' game to the table each night.

Players such as Christian Bargo (9.1, 6.1), Jacob Smith (5.5, 2.2), Robert McWilliams (3.8, 4.7), Trevor Jordan (2.7, 2.0), and Ethan Mills (2.2, 3.8) must step up their play, too.

No. 4 Lynn Camp (5-21)

Rodney Clarke's Wildcats have struggled throughout the season, yet they are a dangerous team that can't be overlooked.

Led by the region's leading scorer, Micah Engle, Lynn Camp is hoping to pull

off an upset against semifinal opponent Barbourville.

Engle can do it all on offense. He's scored at least 50 points twice during the past two weeks.

He's averaging a team-best 30.6 points per game, and 6.7 rebounds per game. Duane Sparks has also turned in a stellar season for the Wildcats.

Sparks is averaging 13.5 points per game, and 6.9 rebounds per game.

Shelby Mills is averaging 6.5 points per game and 1.7 boards while Ethan Burd is tossing in 5.0 points per game while grabbing a team-best 7.5 rebounds per game.

Ethan Chaffin (5.2, 0.8), Braxtons Eads (2.0, 1.1), and Ian Agosto (2.3, 0.5) are expected to contribute as well.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR DISTRICT ATHLETES!

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PHOTO BY MIKE THOMAS

South Laurel's Emily Cox recorded a double-double on senior night to lead the Lady Cardinals to an easy, 80-29, win over Clay County.

Cox leads South Laurel past Clay County, 80-29, on senior night

By Les Dixon
For the

LONDON — South Laurel's Emily Cox recorded a double-double on senior night to lead the Lady Cardinals to an easy, 80-29, win over Clay County.

The Lady Cardinal senior continued her impressive play by scoring 19 points while pulling down 10 rebounds.

The 51-point margin of victory marked the largest win in South Laurel history against a Clay County team while the Lady Cardinals improved to 17-12 during the process.

"Good night for Emily and senior night," South Laurel coach Chris Souder said. "She has been such a great staple to this program. She does a little bit of everything on and off the floor. She worked herself right into a scholarship at Lindsey Wilson. She had another good night tonight with 19 points, and 10 rebounds."

The game was never in doubt with South Laurel building a 24-4 lead at the end of the first quarter, and 49-11 advantage at halftime. The Lady Cardinals' lead grew to 72-21 at the end of the third quarter before sealing the win in the fourth quarter.

Jamie Buenaventura scored 16 points for the Lady Cardinals while Shelby Mills added 13 points. Chloe Mastin finished with eight points while Kenlea Murray, and Aubrey Bundy each scored seven points

SEE COX, PAGE 12B



PHOTO BY DARRIN SPENCER

Senior Emily Sizemore turned in another solid effort, scoring 26 points while finishing with seven rebounds, and seven assists.

Lady Jaguars cruise to 78-56 win over Southwestern

By Les Dixon
For the

LONDON — North Laurel and Southwestern have had a nice rivalry going since meeting in second round action of the 2019 Sweet Sixteen.

The two teams have played seven times, counting Tuesday's matchup, with North Laurel capturing its second win against the Lady Warriors during the time span by cruising to an easy, 78-56 victory.

"I have the utmost respect for Coach (Junior) Molden and his team," North Laurel coach Eddie Mahan said. "If you look at consistently dominant programs over the last few years, you have to look at his teams. We have had some great battles. He will always have his teams ready to guard and play with intensity."

"I thought we matched that intensity tonight," he added. "Our defense has been the difference for us the last few weeks. It is becoming our anchor for what we can depend on every game. I hope that continues into the postseason."

North Laurel (23-6) was relentless on the defensive end throughout the contest.

The Lady Jaguars built an 18-9 advantage in the first quarter, and never looked back. They held a comfortable 35-20 advantage at halftime before outscoring the Lady Warriors, 43-36, in the second half.

Senior Emily Sizemore turned in another solid effort, scoring 26 points while finishing with seven rebounds, and seven assists. Chloe McKnight

SEE CRUISE, PAGE 12B

Reed Sheppard presented with McDonald's All-American jersey



North Laurel senior and University of Kentucky signee Reed Sheppard takes a picture with his teammates, coaches, and local McDonald's representatives during his McDonald's All-American jersey presentation before tipoff of Friday's game against Covington Catholic. | Photos by Scott Warren



Jaguars avenge earlier loss, roll past No. 5 Covington Catholic, 72-58

By Les Dixon
For the

LONDON — After dealing with injuries for most of the season, a healthy North Laurel Jaguar team showed Friday night why they should be considered as one of the top teams in the state.

Reed Sheppard, Ryan Davidson, Gavin Chadwell and Brody Brock turned in one of their best performances of the year during Friday's matchup against No. 5 Covington Catholic, who beat North Laurel earlier this season, 69-65.

Sheppard, Davidson, Chadwell and Brock combined to score 64 points during the Jaguars' 72-58 win.

"That was a great win for our program in a great environment," North Laurel coach Nate Valentine said. "The community support was awesome tonight. The difference in the game was won on the glass. We outrebounded them 41 to 18. Gavin and Ryan were warriors tonight. Reed did a tremendous job facilitating things and Brody made some big shots for us. We got some really valuable minutes from our bench. It was a really good team victory."

SEE JAGUARS, PAGE 13B

Cardinals come up short against Madison Central in 66-57 loss

By Les Dixon
For the

RICHMOND — It wasn't a win, but the battle and experience of Monday's game against Madison Central is something that South Laurel Coach Jeff Davis said will make his team better in the long run.

The Cardinals saw their six-game win streak come to an end, but Davis liked what he saw out of his team during their 66-57 loss to the Indians.

"I'm proud of our guys," South Laurel coach Jeff Davis said. "We really played hard. Our guys battled — we just came up a little short tonight. They hit the big shots when they needed it."

"We played a team that is very well-coached," they really guarded us well. This will prepare us for the tournament. I don't like losing, but I'm proud of our mindset in this game. We kept fighting and battling. You want to play good teams, and these are the type of games you want to play in going into tournament."

The trio of Jalen Davis, Jaden West, and Robby Todd did most of the damage for Madison Central.

Davis scored 26 points while West added 19, and Todd finished with 16.

The Indians led 13-9 at the end of the first quarter before taking a 30-25 advantage into the locker room at halftime.

A nine-point scoring effort by Davis combined with West's seven points allowed the Indians to build a 51-34 cushion entering the fourth quarter.

South Laurel continued



FILE PHOTO

Parker Payne led the Cardinals with 17 points on Saturday.

to battle during the final eight minutes, outscoring Madison Central, 23-15, but the damage had already been done.

Parker Payne led the Cardinals with 17 points while Jordan Mabe added 16 points. Caden Jones scored eight points while Eli Gover, and Ashton Garland each scored seven points apiece.

South Laurel will finish regular season play Thursday at home against Lexington Christian. The game is slated for a 7:30 p.m. start.

Saturday's game

Two contrasting styles went head to head during Saturday's 13th Region heavyweight matchup between Harlan and South Laurel.

The Green Dragons, who were without one of their main players in Jae'dyn Gist, entered as

one of the top-scoring teams in the state with a 77.7 scoring average while the Cardinals possess one of the stingiest defenses in the state, allowing only 49.1 points per game.

In the end, South Laurel prevailed, limiting Harlan to its lowest scoring output of the season during the Cardinals' 57-39 victory.

"They were without Jae'dyn Gist, and he does a lot for them," South Laurel coach Jeff Davis said. "Coach (Derrick) Akal has done a fantastic job with them. It was a battle for all the way through third quarter. We were able to get enough stops to extend the lead a little."

"I think we are getting better," he added. "We still have some big games this week. It's good for our guys getting these type of tests. I know some people think we play a cupcake

schedule but I think it's pretty tough."

It marked the ninth time this season South Laurel (20-7) has limited an opportunity to 40 points or less.

Harlan (23-6) trailed throughout but cut its deficit to 41-36 at the end of the third quarter before the Cardinals pulled away during the final eight minutes.

South Laurel held a 19-14 advantage in the first quarter thanks to Parker Payne and Eli Gover each scoring eight points apiece.

The Cardinals' lead grew to 32-24 at halftime as Gover added five more points while Josh Steele scored four points.

Harlan knocked down three of its seven 3-pointers in the third quarter to cut its deficit to five points at the end of the third

SEE CARDINALS, PAGE 13B



PHOTO BY LOGAN PAUGH

The North Laurel Middle School eighth grade basketball team capped off their perfect 38-0 season by capturing the KBC State Championship on Sunday.

North Laurel 8th graders capture state title

By Les Dixon
For the Sentinel-Echo

LEXINGTON — Perfection. The North Laurel Middle School eighth grade basketball team capped off their perfect 38-0 season by capturing the KBC State Championship by defeating Mullins (Pike County) in the finals, 50-46.

The Jaguars were unbeaten throughout the season, and the

trend continued during this past weekend's KBC Eighth Grade State Tournament.

North Laurel defeated Shelby West in pool play before cruising past EJ Hayes, and Corbin during the first two rounds of the state tournament.

The Jaguars then defeated Owensboro in the Sweet 16, and Wayne County in the Elite Eight before taking care of business

against W.E.B. DuBois in the Final Four.

The title game was close throughout against Mullins but North Laurel did just enough to notch the win, and state title.

"As a coach, I could not be more proud of this team," North Laurel coach Elijah Jervis said. "They always find a way to win and that's what makes them so special. They play for each oth-

er and are truly like family. They have played all season with a chip on their shoulder for this moment after losing in the Final Four last year.

"Our motto all year has been 'locked in' because we wanted to finish on top," he added. "We finished with a perfect record of 38-0. Seventy-five teams in the state tournament, and we finished No. 1."

Members of the eighth grade team are Tanner Houchens, Kenton Patterson, Lucas Cupp, Cam Anderson, Evan Zarate, Jude McWhorter, Joe Smith, Brodon Hacker, Brayden Hampton, Carson Goins, Cooper Elza, Lukas Maiden, Sawyer Miller, Raiden Sultz, Jackson Storm, and Asher Edwards. Head coach is Elijah Jervis, and assistant coach Ethan Eversole.

CRUISE

Continued from page 11B

added 16 points while Brooke Nichelson scored 14 points, and Jaelyn Black finished with nine points.

"Emily Sizemore had another dominant game on both sides of the ball," Mahan said. "Not only did she have 26 points, seven rebounds, and seven assists, she also did a great job on the defensive end."

"Brooke Nichelson was extremely efficient getting 14 points off of 5-of-6 shooting," he added. "Chloe McKnight had a good game, too. You know you have a great post player when you feel like she had an off night and she still got 16 points off of 70 percent shooting. She gives us such an advantage over almost every team we play because of her."

North Laurel will finish regular season play Thursday on the road against Owsley County. The game is scheduled for a 7:30 p.m. tipoff.

Saturday's game

Eddie Mahan has challenged his team throughout the season with one of the top slates in the state.

Just a day removed of defeating defending 13th Region champion Corbin, North Laurel was faced with another challenge on Saturday, a matchup against No. 9 Ryle.

The Lady Jaguars led entering the fourth quarter before falling, 56-54.

"When I scheduled this game the day after Corbin, I knew it would be a challenge," Mahan admitted. "It's also what we needed to learn how to fight through adversity."

"I thought we did that overall well today as we played well enough defensively to win," he added. "It was on the offensive side of the ball that we looked stagnant. You could tell our legs were not recovered from last night but they still fought hard. Ryle is one of the better teams in the state

and with their size you can see why."

North Laurel (22-6) trailed 16-13 at the end of the first quarter, and 28-22 at halftime before the Lady Jaguars used a 20-12 run in the third quarter to take a 42-40 advantage into the final period of play.

The game was nip and tuck throughout the final eight minutes before the Lady Raiders took advantage of some miscues during the final three minutes to get the win.

"After multiple runs but both teams throughout the game, it was the last three minutes of the game that cost us the game," Mahan said. "We struggled to score and defensively played so hard we would get out of position which would lead to their open looks on the rotation."

Senior Emily Sizemore continued her impressive play, finishing with 23 points while Chloe McKnight added 13 points, and Brooke Nichelson tossed in 10 points.



PHOTOS BY DARRIN SPENCER

"Brooke Nichelson was extremely efficient getting 14 points off of 5-of-6 shooting," Coach Mahan said

Friday's game

Two 13th Region heavyweights battled for 48 minutes with North Laurel coming away with a 62-53 decision over defending 13th Region champion Corbin.

The Lady Redhounds had defeated Eddie Mahan's squad earlier in the season in the WYMT Mountain Classic finals, 76-75.

They looked to be in charge of Friday's contest until a 19-5 third quarter run by the Lady Jaguars gave North Laurel some breathing room entering the fourth quarter with a 47-37 lead.

Corbin attempted to rally late, cutting its deficit to 57-51 with 2:31 remaining before the Lady Jaguars put the game out of reach with a 5-3 run.

"I'm proud of the way my players stepped up at key moments," North Lau-

rel coach Eddie Mahan said. "We didn't play great but we showed a winning mentality. That's what wins in postseason."

"Emily Sizemore showed what great players do in big games," he added. "When we were struggling, she always made a big play. She controlled the team and the tempo. Brooke (Nichelson) with her 15 rebounds and key defense was huge. She understands that we need her on the floor and she played great and stayed out of foul trouble."

North Laurel was powered by senior Emily Sizemore's 23 points. She scored seven of those in the third quarter which allowed her team to build a comfortable lead. Brooke Nichelson added 15 points and 15 rebounds, and also hit three 3-pointers along with Sizemore, while Chloe McKnight took charge in the post, scoring 15 points. Jaelyn Black

and Bella Sizemore each scored three points apiece.

"Tonight showed that every girl on our team is needed in games like this and they answered," Mahan said. "This was a good game but at the end of the day this isn't the region championship. I have a feeling that we could see each other again."

Darcie Anderson paced the way for Corbin, scoring a game-high 24 points while hitting three 3-pointers. Kylie Clem and Kallie Housley each added 12 points apiece. Raegan Walker added five points.

The Lady Jaguars are now 22-5, and 11-1 against 13th Region opponents, while Corbin falls to 17-8, and 10-1 against 13th Region opponents.

North Laurel is scheduled back in action Saturday at home against Ryle at 3:30 p.m. while the Lady Redhounds will host Clay County at 2:30 p.m.



Jaelyn Black finished with nine points.

COX

Continued from page 11B

apiece. Sydney Blanton, and Maci Messer each scored five points apiece.

"We are again getting good minutes from some other kids that gives us great confidence," Souder said. "Jamie, Chloe, and we got Kenlea back tonight which gave us a lift. Our guard play of Shelby Mills and Aubrey Bundy has also been key. Hopefully, we are peaking at

the correct time."

Lauryn Sizemore led Clay County (10-18) with 11 points while MacKenzie Sizemore, and Julia Collins each scored seven points apiece.

The Lady Cardinals will play their final regular season game Friday on the road at Danville. The game is scheduled for a 6 p.m. start. The Lady Tigers will travel to play Barbourville Thursday at 6 p.m.

Friday's game

South Laurel's season-best

five-game win streak might have come to an end on Friday, but the Lady Cardinals continue to show they're improving game by game.

Chris Souder's squad held their own during an 80-76 loss to No. 9 Ryle.

South Laurel battled throughout and never gave in before finally falling by four points. The Lady Cardinals trailed 22-18 at the end of the first quarter and 47-39 at halftime before cutting their deficit to 66-61 entering the fourth quarter.

South Laurel outscored the Lady Raiders, 15-14, in the final eight minutes but came up short in the end.

"We really battled tonight, just came up a little short," Souder said. "I was really proud of our kids because we are really short-handed with some nagging injuries. At one point, we had four eighth-graders and (Aubrey) Bundy on the floor. Emily (Cox) continues to prove she is one of the better seniors in the state. What other senior is surrounded by middle

schoolers but continues to produce. She finished with 36 tonight.

"We got really good minutes tonight from Jamie Buenaventura, eighth-grader Sydney Blanton, and eighth-grader Chloe Mastin," he added. "Just good to see at this point of the season that we competed with one of the top teams in the state."

The Lady Cardinals had trouble containing Ryle's big three of Sarah Baker, Abby Hoffman, and Quinn

Eubank. The trio combined to score 70 points with Baker and Hoffman adding 26 points apiece while Eubank finished with 18 points.

South Laurel senior Emily Cox led all scorers with 36 points while hitting four 3-pointers. Maci Messer and Jamie Buenaventura each scored 10 points apiece.

The Lady Cardinals (16-12) will be back in action Monday at home against Clay County. The game is scheduled to tip off at 7:30 p.m.

CARDINALS

Continued from page 11B

quarter before South Laurel's locked down on the Green Dragons, and limited Harlan to only three points and one field goal during the final eight minutes of the game.

Payne led the Cardinals with 17 points while Gover finished with 15 points. Caden Jones, and Jordan Mabe each scored eight points apiece.

Kyler McLendon led Harlan with a game-high 23 points while Kaleb McLendon finished with 10 points.

Thursday's game

South Laurel's Eli Gover has turned in a stellar season, often shutting down his opponent's top offensive player, but on

Thursday, he dominated on the offensive end on the floor.

Gover scored 32 points while hitting six 3-pointers to lead the Cardinals over Boyle County, 80-71.

The 80-point output is the most South Laurel has scored this season.

Jeff Davis' squad received a balanced scoring effort in the win with Parker Payne drilling two 3-pointers while finishing with 18 points. Jordan Mabe added 14 points while Caden Jones, and Ashton Garland scored seven points apiece.

"We shot the ball overall as a team really well. It was good to see Eli to be able to knock some of the shots down early," South Laurel coach Jeff Davis said. "We had a 19-point lead with four minutes to and it dwindled down, and you didn't like the way close it out. "We haven't been shooting the ball



Parker Payne gets past Boyle County, scoring two 3-pointers among his total 18 points.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL THOMAS



PHOTO BY MICHAEL THOMAS

Eli Gover scored 32 points while hitting six 3-pointers to lead the Cardinals over Boyle County, 80-71.

well, and tonight we did," he added. "This was a big challenge. Boyle is a big, strong and young team. Now we will play one of the hottest teams in the region. It's going to create a big challenge for us."

The Rebels' Kason Myers was a thorn in South Laurel's side for most of the game. He scored 25 points while hitting six 3-pointers.

South Laurel came out red-hot, scoring 22 points in the first quarter while building a seven-point advantage as Gover scored 13 points while Payne added five points.

Gover added eight more points in the second quarter allowing the Cardinals to

hold onto a 37-32 lead.

He continued to keep the hot hand in the third quarter, adding 10 more points while Mabe contributed six points, pushing South Laurel's cushion to 61-47.

Payne's six points in the fourth quarter combined with Garland and Mabe scoring four a points apiece allowed the Cardinals to cruise to the win.

South Laurel will look to extend its win streak to six games on Saturday with a home matchup at 7:30 p.m. against Harlan.

The two teams opened the season on Nov. 29, 2022 with the Green Dragons coming away with a 71-63 win.

JAGUARS

Continued from page 11B

Sheppard, who was presented his McDonald's All-American jersey before the game, scored 19 points while recording 10 rebounds, eight assists, three steals, and two blocked shots. Davidson dominated in the post, hitting 9-of-13 shot attempts for 21 points, six boards, and one block. Chadwell was stellar as well on both ends of the floor, scoring 13 points on 4-of-5 shooting while pulling down 10 rebounds. Brock knocked down three crucial 3-pointers, finishing with 11 points, and five rebounds. Colton Rawlings added seven points, four rebounds, and three assists.

Evan Isparo led Cov-

ington Catholic with 22 points and five rebounds as the Colonels shot 21-of-54 from the floor, including a 9-of-26 effort from 3-point range.

The Jaguars led throughout the game, building a 17-10 edge in the first quarter, and a 34-21 cushion at halftime. North Laurel's lead grew to 55-35 entering the fourth quarter.

The Jaguars shot 23-of-45 from the floor, and were only 5-of-20 from 3-point range. They knocked down 21-of-27 shot attempts, including a 9-of-10 effort in the final eight minutes when the game was out of reach. North Laurel dominated the boards, outrebounding the Colonels 41-18.

The Jaguars are slated to be back in action Monday at home against Knox

Central at 7:30 p.m.

Monday's game

It's been less than a year since North Laurel ended Knox Central's three-year reign as 13th Region champions while capturing its second regional title in the process.

The two teams met again on Monday with both squads on opposite ends of the spectrum.

North Laurel is in prime position to make another deep postseason run to repeat as regional champs while Knox Central is looking to improve on its 4-23 record.

In the end, the Jaguars captured one of their most lopsided wins against the Panthers, picking up a 76-35 victory at The Jungle.

"Tonight was a special night for our program as we honored our five



Ryan Davidson dominated in the post, hitting 9-of-13 shot attempts for 21 points



PHOTOS BY CRYSTAL ROBERTS

Senior Brayden Caudill had 15 points on Monday night.

seniors," North Laurel coach Nate Valentine said. "They have given everything they have to our program and I can't thank them enough. They have propelled North Laurel to new heights through lots of hard work and selfless attitudes.

"I'm most proud of the way they carry themselves on and off the floor," he added. "They have been great role models for the younger generation in our community."

In a game that saw most of their starters play sparingly at times, North Laurel (19-10) dominated from the opening tip.

Brayden Caudill scored eight points in the first period while the Jaguars

connected on five long range bombs to take a commanding, 25-7, advantage into the second quarter.

Ryan Davidson added 10 points in the second quarter while Kyler Elza scored four points to push North Laurel to a 48-11 advantage at halftime.

Caudill and Brody Brock added five points apiece in the third quarter as the Jaguars' advantage grew to 63-25 entering the fourth quarter.

North Laurel wrapped up the win in the final eight minutes by outscoring Knox Central, 13-10.

Davidson led all scorers on senior night with 18 points while Caudill delivered 15 points. Bro-

dy Brock finished with 10 points while Reece Davidson and Reed Sheppard each scored seven points apiece.

"I was thrilled for Brayden on his play tonight," Valentine said. "He has been the epitome of a teammate and was very deserving of his Player of the Game honor for his play tonight."

Austin Bargo led the Panthers with 12 points while Brayden Mills finished with nine points.

North Laurel caps off regular season play Friday on the road against Corbin with tipoff at 7:30 p.m. Knox Central travels to play Clay County on Thursday with tipoff scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

TEAM AND PLAYER RANKINGS

49TH DISTRICT BOYS TEAM RANKINGS

1. North Laurel
2. Clay County
3. Jackson County
4. Oneida Baptist
5. Red Bird

49TH DISTRICT BOYS PLAYER RANKINGS

1. Reed Sheppard, North Laurel
2. Ryan Davidson, North Laurel
3. Gavin Chadwell, North Laurel
4. Hayden Harris, Clay County
5. Brody Brock, North Laurel

49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TEAM RANKINGS

1. North Laurel
2. Jackson County
3. Clay County
4. Oneida Baptist

49TH DISTRICT GIRLS

PLAYER RANKINGS

1. Emily Sizemore, North Laurel
2. Brooke Nichelson, North Laurel
3. Chloe McKnight, North Laurel
4. Abby Gilbert, Jackson County
5. Kenady Ward, Jackson County

50TH DISTRICT BOYS TEAM RANKINGS

1. South Laurel
2. Corbin
3. Whitley County
4. Williamsburg

50TH DISTRICT BOYS PLAYER RANKINGS

1. Hayden Llewellyn, Corbin
2. Eli Gover, South Laurel
3. Jerrod Roark, Williamsburg
4. Ashton Reynolds, Whitley County
5. Jordan Mabe,

South Laurel

50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TEAM RANKINGS

1. Corbin
2. South Laurel
3. Whitley County
4. Williamsburg

50TH DISTRICT GIRLS PLAYER RANKINGS

1. Emily Cox, South Laurel
2. Kylie Clem, Corbin
3. Kallie Housley, Corbin
4. Darcie Anderson, Corbin
5. Maddy Hopkins, Williamsburg

51ST DISTRICT BOYS TEAM RANKINGS

1. Barbourville
2. Pineville
3. Knox Central
4. Lynn Camp

51ST DISTRICT BOYS PLAYER RANKINGS

1. Micah Engle,

Lynn Camp

2. Sawyer Thompson, Pineville
3. Matt Warren, Barbourville
4. Brayden Mills, Knox Central
5. Ashton Moser, Pineville

51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TEAM RANKINGS

1. Knox Central
2. Pineville
3. Lynn Camp
4. Barbourville

51ST DISTRICT GIRLS PLAYER RANKINGS

1. Halle Collins, Knox Central
2. Nadine Johnson, Pineville
3. Ava Arnett, Pineville
4. Sarah Smith, Barbourville
5. Timberly Fredrick, Knox Central

SOUTH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9B

averaging 10.4 points per game, and 3.6 rebounds per game. Also expected to contribute are Maci Messer (7.0, 3.9), Kenlea Murray (7.2, 5.8), Aubrey Bundy (3.1, 3.4), Jamie Buenaventura (4.3, 1.9), Sydney Blanton (1.9, 0.9), and Alyssa Mounce (0.9, 1.1)

3. Whitley County (9-14)

Coach Sean Pigman's Lady Colonels have withstood losing skids of three games, and seven

games, and have hopes of pulling off the upset against South Laurel, a team they went 0-2 against this season.

The Lady Colonels have dropped seven straight games to the Lady Cardinals while beating them only once (Jan. 23, 2021) since 2017.

It hasn't been the ideal season so far for Pigman, but he has Whitley County much-improved since the 2022-23 campaign tipped-off.

The Lady Colonels only have one player scoring in double figures, but that's not a concern

due to the full cupboard Pigman possesses.

Jonna Rice (10.0, 7.6) leads Whitley County in scoring and rebounding and is joined by Khylea Ray Collier (7.8, 1.1), who has really impressed of late. Also contributing for the Lady Colonels are Alba Castillo Lopez (4.8, 6.8), Amber Brown (4.2, 2.6), Madison Richardson (3.3, 1.6), Michaela Barton (3.0, 1.8), and Autumn Sawyers (1.5, 1.7).

4. Williamsburg (10-16)

Coach Emily Downey has done a fantastic job in her first

year as Lady Yellow Jackets head coach.

She took over a young team, and constructed a good group of competitive Lady Yellow Jackets.

Williamsburg wasn't able to pick up a district win this season, but they've strung together some pretty nice wins.

The Lady Yellow Jackets will enter their semifinal game against Corbin as heavy underdogs while searching to end their eight-game losing skid against the Lady Redhounds.

Williamsburg is led by eighth

grader Maddy Hopkins, who has the knack to find the basket while rebounding with the best of them.

She's averaging 19.3 points per game along with an 8.2 rebounding average. Allie Wilson can take over a game as well. She's averaging 16.7 points per game, and a team-best 8.7 rebounding per game average.

Joining Hopkins, and Wilson are Zoie Brown (5.5, 3.8), Abby Moses (4.8, 5.2), Lorelei Coleman (3.8, 4.1), Presley Spicer (2.4, 3.4), Ashtyn Foley (0.4, 0.6), and Cassie Weiss (0.4, 0.9).

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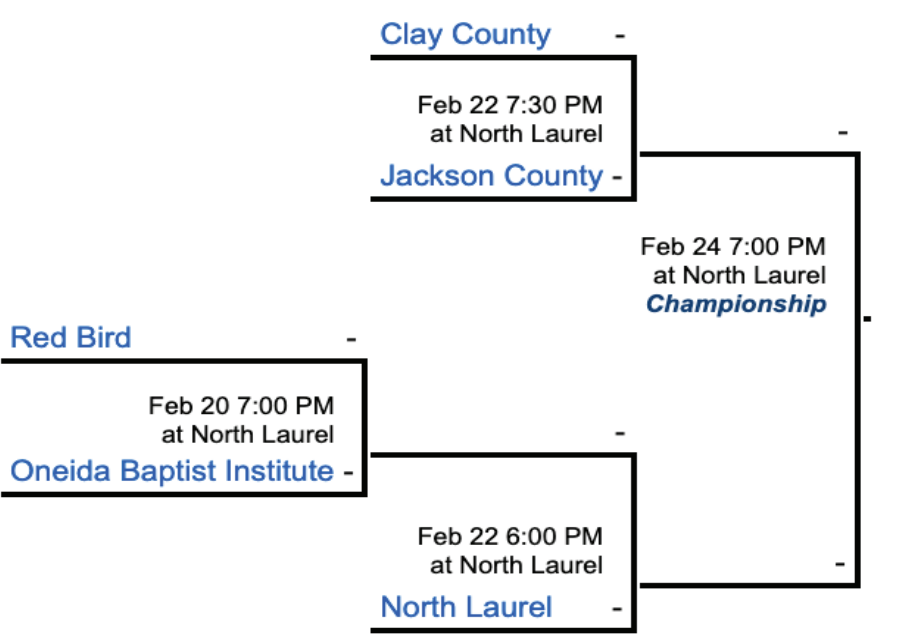


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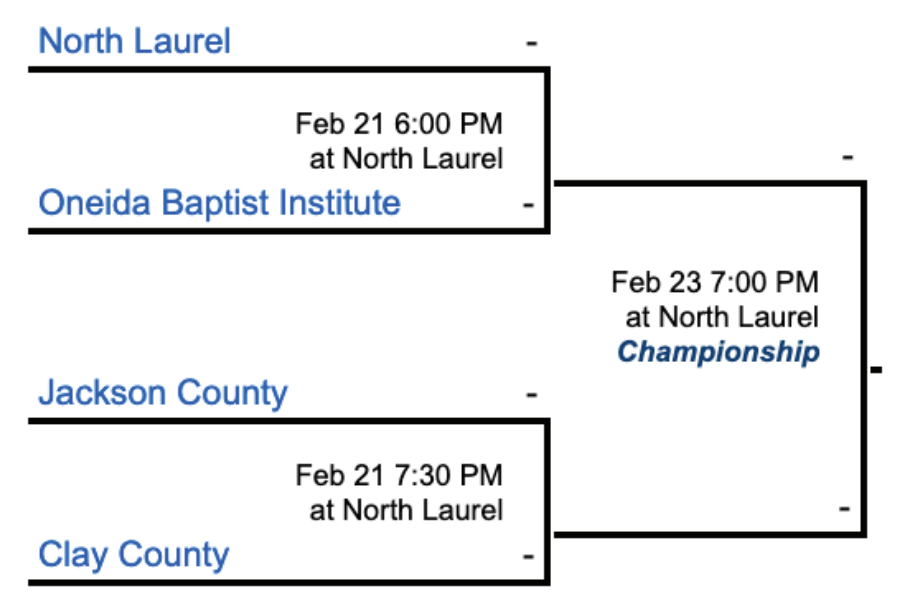
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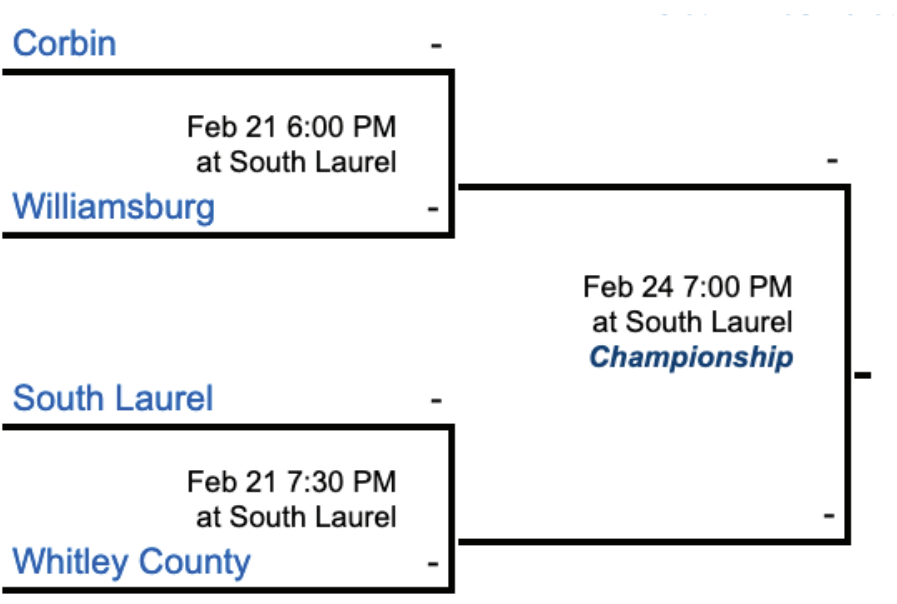
49TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT BRACKET



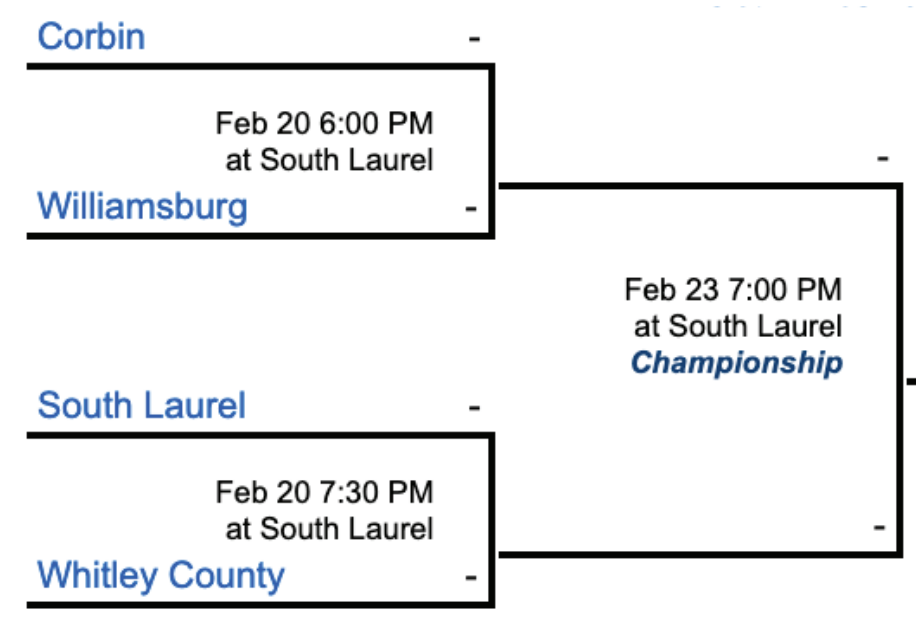
49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT BRACKET



50TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT BRACKET



50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT BRACKET



51ST DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT BRACKET



51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT BRACKET



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