

THE TIMES-TRIBUNE & THE SENTINEL-ECHO'S

DISTRICTOURNAMENT PREVIEW

49TH DISTRICT - 50TH DISTRICT - 51ST DISTRICT



KC

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49TH DISTRICT BOYS

Championship will likely come down to North Laurel vs. Clay County



Freshman Reed Sheppard leads North Laurel in scoring, averaging more than 20 points per game. | FILE PHOTO

BY LES DIXON
Staff Writer

With seeding back in place, there were no surprises when it came to the 49th District this season.

Most folks assumed Clay County and North Laurel would be the two top seeds once the season began, but one question remained, who would be the one seed?

Glenn Gray's Tigers turned out to be the answer after posting a 2-0 mark against North Laurel and a perfect 8-0 record against 49th District opponents.

Clay County is led by a solid nucleus of players that can score, rebound and play defense.

Jacob Curry leads the team with an 18.7 scoring average while Connor Robinson isn't far behind at 17.4 points per game.

Evan Langdon has established himself as the best big man in the region with a 12.7 scoring average along with a 7.9 rebounding average while Connor Farmer is averaging 12.3 points per game. You also



North Laurel freshman Ryan Davidson's first year as a Jaguar has seen the freshman average more than 15 points and close to five rebounds per game.

can't forget about defensive specialists Raven Abner and Jakob Begley, who are both key players to the team. Nate Valentine's North Laurel Jaguars posted a 6-2 mark against district

opponents and is led by freshman Reed Sheppard, who has already surpassed the 1,000-point plateau a few weeks ago.

Sheppard leads North Laurel with a 20-point scoring average while pulling down 5.5 rebounds per game. Senior Cole Kelley has put together a solid season, averaging 16.2 points per game while leading the team with a 6.3 rebounding average. Freshman Ryan Davidson has had a solid first year in the blue and green. He's averaging 15.1 points per game and 4.8 rebounds per game while Isaiah Alexander (6.0 scoring average), Clay Sizemore (4.8), Nate Bruner (3.9), Noah Black (2.0), Isaiah Elmore (1.1) and Caden Harris (1.1) have played key roles this season as well.

Jackson County is

49TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT

at Jackson County High School

First Round

Monday, Feb. 24

OBI vs. Red Bird, 7:45 p.m.

Semifinal

Tuesday, Feb. 25

North Laurel vs. Jackson County, 7:45 p.m.

Semifinal

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Clay County vs. winner of OBI/Red Bird, 7:45 p.m.

Final

Friday, Feb. 28

TBD, 8 p.m.

catching fire at the right time. The Generals have struggled most of the season but will host the tournament and have an edge playing at home.

Clay Akemon leads the team in scoring with a 14.8 scoring average while Logan Rose is averaging 13.4 points per game. Jude Lakes has

a 10.6 scoring average while Andrew Madden is averaging 8.9 points per game.

Oneida Baptist had a chance to secure the No. 3 seed, but fell to Red Bird last Monday.

The Mountaineers are led by Jacob Hall (15.7 points per game, 5.7 rebounds per game), Sochi Onouha (12.4 points per game), Elijah Woods (12.3) and Wayne Estep (11.2).

First-year coach Brad Marsee has guided Red Bird to some big wins this season, including last Monday's upset win over Oneida Baptist. No stats have been turned in this season for Red Bird.

49TH DISTRICT FIRST ROUND MATCHUP

No. 4 OBI vs. No. 5 Red Bird — The two teams split a pair of games

SEE 49TH BOYS, PAGE 8

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Best of luck to all the 50th District teams!

49TH DISTRICT GIRLS

Lady Jaguars enter district tournament play as favorites



Isabel Gray's leadership is one of many strong points the senior forward brings to the table for North Laurel. | FILE PHOTO

BY LES DIXON
Staff Writer

49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT

at Jackson County High School

FIRST ROUND

Monday, Feb. 24

OBI vs. Red Bird, 6 p.m.

SEMIFINAL

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Clay County vs. Jackson County, 6 p.m.

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FINAL

Friday, Feb. 28

TBD, 6 p.m.

Eddie Mahan's North Laurel Lady Jaguars will enter this week's 49th District Tournament riding a 19-game win streak against 49th District opponents.

The Lady Jaguars posted a perfect 8-0 mark against district opponents this season while establishing themselves as one of the front runners to win the 13th Region championship.

The defending 13th Region champions have put together one of its best seasons in program history behind a solid nucleus of players.

North Laurel has four players averaging at least 10 points per game with sophomore Hailee Valentine leading the way with close to a 15-point scoring average. Seventh-grader Halle Collins is averaging over 13 points and close to seven rebounds per game while Gracie Jervis and Emily Sizemore follow with 11-point scoring averages. Senior Isabel Gray has the ability to score 20 points or more any time she steps on the court. She's aver-

aging eight points and four rebounds per game. What makes North Laurel even more dangerous is its strong bench play which is led by Chloe McKnight's four-point scoring average and 3.3 rebounding average.

The team everyone needs to keep an eye on is red-hot Jackson County.

The Lady Generals will be hosting the 49th District Tournament this week and seem to be peaking at the right time.

Kourtney Tyra's team has size and scoring that can cause any 13th Region team problems.

Taya Davis leads the team with a 20.5 scoring average while Edam Lakes, Kenady Ward and Amber screech are scoring threats, too. Ward provides the Lady Generals with size that most teams can't matchup with. Ward leads the team with a 7.4 rebounding average.

Clay County has struggled to get much going this season and it's longest win streak has been only three games.

The Lady Tigers are led by senior Kaylee Mathis, who is scoring more than 20 points per game. She has now scored more than 3,000 points during her career and is the all-time leading scorer in Clay County history after surpassing Richie Farmer's point total a couple of weeks ago.

Taylor Asher also brings solid play to the table for Clay County. She's averaging more than 11 points per game while Alexis Lewis has a nine-point scoring average.

Both Red Bird and Oneida Baptist have struggled at times this season and will have a hard time of trying to advance to regional

tournament play.

Alyssa Gibson has been a bright spot for the Lady Cardinals with a 22-point and seven-rebound scoring average while Alexis Bowling is scoring at a rate of nine points per game while leading the team with a 7.3 rebounding average.

The Lady Mountaineers started the season with eight losses but have turned things around and will look to continue their recent success this week.

Oneida Baptist has three players that is averaging more than nine points per game — Katy Schroeder, Emilie Field-Darragh and Samira Dennis.

49TH DISTRICT FIRST ROUND MATCHUP

No. 4 Oneida Baptist vs. No. 5 Red Bird — The two teams have played once this season and were scheduled to play during the final week of regular season play but due to deadline purposes I won't know the outcome of the game.

Red Bird handed the Lady Mountaineers a 62-34 loss back on Dec. 7 as Alyssa Gibson led the way with 29 points while Alexis Bowling and Liberty Taylor each chipped in 12 points apiece.

Oneida Baptist struggles shooting the ball, finishing 13-of-50 from the floor while Samira Dennis led the way with nine points.

Prediction — Look for Alyssa Gibson to have another big game and lead Red Bird to a 62-42 win.

49TH DISTRICT SEMIFINAL



Seventh-grader Halle Collins has providing lots of scoring and rebounding for North Laurel this season. She's averaging over 13 points and 7 rebounds per game. | FILE PHOTO

ROUND MATCHUPS

No. 1 North Laurel vs. winner of No. 4 Oneida Baptist/No. 5 Red Bird — North Laurel is 2-0 against both teams, and will be heavily favored against Oneida Baptist or Red Bird.

The Lady Jaguars recorded wins of 82-22 and 74-32, respectively, against Oneida Baptist. Twelve players scored during the 60-point rout with Gracie Jervis leading the way with an 11-point scoring effort.

Jervis came up big again with a team-best 18 points during North Laurel's 42-point win while Emily Sizemore added 11 points and Halle Collins finished with 10 points.

North Laurel cruised to wins of 87-37 and 64-27 against Red Bird. Gracie Jervis led the team in scoring with 16 points during the 50-point rout while the Lady Jaguars hit 9-of-18 shot attempts from behind the arc.

Gracie Jervis and Halle Collins each scored 16 points apiece during North Laurel's 37-point victory while Chloe McKnight added a double-double with 10 points and 10 rebounds.

Prediction — North Laurel is going to cruise to the 49th District finals no matter who the Lady Jaguars play. They've just got too much firepower.

SEE 49TH GIRLS, PAGE 8

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BOYS 50TH DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Cardinals the team to beat in 50th District Tournament



South Laurel's Matt Cromer helped guide the Cardinals to a perfect 6-0 record against 50th District competition. | FILE PHOTO



Tony Pietrowski's Corbin Redhounds split a pair of games with Williamsburg this season. | FILE PHOTO

BY LES DIXON
Staff Writer

Jeff Davis' top-seeded South Laurel Cardinals enter this week's 50th District Tournament as the team to beat after posting a perfect 6-0 mark against district opponents during regular season play.

The Cardinals are led by seniors Matt Cromer, Brett Norvell and Alex Hostettler along with players such as Micah Anders and Caden Jones and not to mention, a solid nucleus of talent that comes off the bench.

Cromer, the KABC 13th Region Player of the Year, is averaging 25 points and 8.2 rebounds

per game while Brett Norvell is averaging 12.7 points per game.

Nick Napier's Williamsburg Yellow Jackets are the No. 2 seed after posting a 3-3 record against 50th District opponents.

The Yellow Jackets are looking to punch a ticket into the 13th Region Tournament since winning the regional championship in 2015. They are led by the duo of Caleb Rose and Slaht Hunter along with a solid cast of contributing players.

Tony Pietrowski's Corbin Redhounds also had a 3-3 record against 50th District opponents, but lost the tiebreaker to Williamsburg and will be the No. 3 seed.

Corbin is led by senior Matthew Taylor, who is one of the top offensive players in the 13th Region. Josh Hibbitts, Gavin Allen and Alex Byrley are three of many Corbin players that have contributed to the Redhounds' success.

Host Whitley County will try to pull off the upset against No. 1 seed South Laurel, but it's not going to be easy. The Colonels were winless (0-6) against district opponents, including two losses to the Cardinals.

Trevor Downs, Garrett



Jerry Overbey's Whitley County Colonels will look to pull off the upset when they meet South Laurel during semifinal action of the 50th District Tournament. | FILE PHOTO

McNealy, Jackson Estes and Grayson Estes have come up big for Whitley County this season.

50TH DISTRICT TOURNAMENT SEMIFINAL MATCHUPS

No. 1 South Laurel vs. No. 4 Whitley County — The Cardinals are a perfect 2-0 against the Colonels, but both games have been close battles.

South Laurel defeated Jerry Overbey's squad on the road on Dec. 10, 72-61, as Matt Cromer only played a few minutes due to an injury before seeing Alex a Hostettler lead the way with 21 points while Micah Anders added 18 points and Brett Norvell followed with 12 points. Caden Jones also came up big, scoring nine points while pulling down four rebounds

Brayden Mahan and Trevor Downs each had 16 points apiece for Whitley County while Grayson Estes added 11 points.

Cromer's 22 point effort helped lead the Cardinals to a 51-38 win during the teams' second meeting on Jan. 23. Brett

50TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT

At Whitley County High School

Semifinals

Tuesday, Feb. 25

South Laurel vs. Whitley County, 6 p.m.

Williamsburg vs. Corbin, 7:30 p.m.

Finals

Friday, Feb. 28

TBD, 7 p.m.

Norvell added 19 points and 13 rebounds while Caden Jones came up big again with eight points and five rebounds.

Seth Mills led the Colonels with 11 points while Grayson Estes followed with 10 points. Whitley County connected on only 15-of-51 shot attempts during the loss while being outrebounded, 32-22.

Prediction — South Laurel is the best defensive team in the region, and the Colonels have seen that first hand, shooting a combined 39-of-95 from the floor during both loss to Jeff Davis' squad.

Whitley County does have an edge with the

game being played at home, but look for Matt Cromer to come up big and lead South Laurel to a 62-48 win

No. 2 Williamsburg vs. No. 3 Corbin — Williamsburg and Corbin have hooked up in two epic battles this season with both teams coming away with a win apiece.

The Yellow Jackets led Corbin by nine points on the road with three minutes remaining before losing, 84-74, during the two teams' first meeting on Dec. 13.

Nick Napier's squad pulled down 39 rebounds but only hit on 25-of-59 shot attempts as Slaht Hunter scored 22 points while Caleb Rose (17 points) and Larry Bray (13 points) followed.

The Redhounds put the game away from the free-throw line by hitting 30-of-48 attempts.

Matthew Taylor scored 21 points while Josh Hibbitts followed with 20 points. Cole Hicks also scored in double figures with a 10-point scoring

SEE 50TH BOYS, PAGE 9

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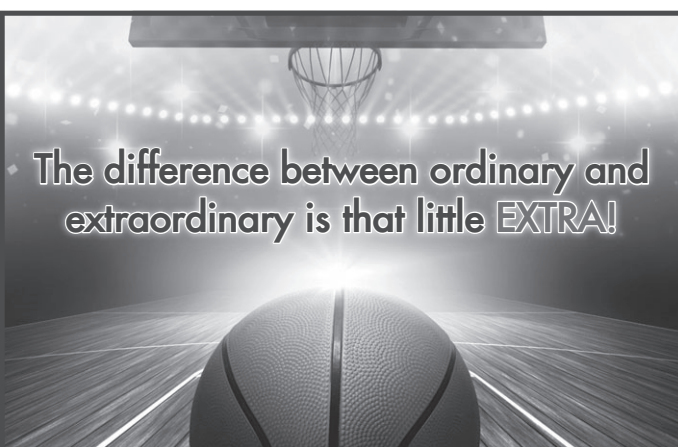


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GIRLS 50TH DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Many believe South Laurel will cruise through district tournament



Chris Souder's South Laurel Lady Cardinals are 2-0 against semifinal opponent Williamsburg this season. | FILE PHOTO



Marissa Scott is averaging 12 points per game for Corbin. | FILE PHOTO

per game while Marissa Scott has a 12-point scoring average.

Host Whitley County came away with the three seed after winning a tie breaker against No. 4 seed Williamsburg.

Sean Pigman's first year as coach of the Lady Colonels could turn out to be a very successful one if host Whitley County can get past Corbin.

The Lady Colonels have improved as the season progressed and is now considered as one of the best 3-Point shooting teams in the region.

Lindsey Shope and Kallie Housley are each scoring more than 10 points per game while as team, Whitley County has knocked down 219 3-pointers this season.

Williamsburg has had a successful season so far by capturing the 13th Region

50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT

At Whitley County High School
Semifinals
 Monday, Feb. 24
 South Laurel vs. Williamsburg, 6 p.m.
 Corbin vs. Whitley County, 7:30 p.m.
Finals
 Thursday, Feb. 27
 TBD, 7 p.m.

All 'A' Classic Tournament championship, but has hit some rough spots along the way to finish regular season play.

The Lady Yellow Jackets are led by Lillie Hall's 17-point scoring average while Mikkah Siler (13 points per game) and Madison Chapman (11.5 points per game) have turned in stellar seasons.

SEE 50TH GIRLS, PAGE 9



Reis Anderson and the Whitley County Lady Colonels split a pair of games against Corbin this season. | FILE PHOTO

a deep bench.

Isaac Wilson's Corbin Lady Redhounds will enter the tournament as the No. 2 seed with hopes of reaching the 13th Region Tournament for the first time since the 2016-17 season.

Shelby Stewart is scoring more than 17 points

South Laurel possesses two Miss Basketball finalists in Ally Collett and Amerah Steele (both players are averaging more than 20 points per game) and they are joined by Sydnie Hall, Clara Collins, Brianna Howard and Emily Cox along with

BY LES DIXON
 Staff Writer
 South Laurel has lived up to its pre-season hype and put together an unblemished 6-0 record against 50th District opponents on its way to claiming the No. 1 seed for this week's tour-

nament.

The Lady Cardinals have recorded district wins of 28, 10, 36, 36, 35 and 55 points, giving many plenty of reason to believe Chris Souder's squad will cruise through this week's 50th District Tournament.

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BOYS 51ST DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Knox Central trying to continue district dominance



Javonte Turner and the Knox Central Panthers have won the four straight 51st District Tournament championships. | FILE PHOTO



Dinky Phipps' Lynn Camp Wildcats are looking to surprise and make a run in this week's 51st District Tournament. | FILE PHOTO

BY LES DIXON
Staff Writer

Knox Central has dominated 51st District Tournament play the past four years, winning four straight championships while Barbourville, Lynn Camp and Pineville have each tried to figure out a way to unseat the Panthers as district champions.

Both Knox Central and the Tigers were scheduled to play each other this past week to see who would be the No. 1 seed but due to deadlines, I wasn't able to wait for the outcome of the game.

The defending 13th Region champion Knox

Central Panthers are loaded with fire power.

Jevonte Turner has turned into a dunking machine, but he's more than just that. He solid on both ends of the court. He leads the team with a 23.5 scoring average and he's pulling down 6.5 boards per game. Zach Patterson is averaging 12.5 points per game while Isaac Mills is averaging 12.1 points per game and a team-best 6.9 rebounds per game. Kevionte Turner is averaging 11.4 points per game.

Barbourville is led by senior Shawn Vaughn's 16.5 and 6.4 scoring and rebounding averag-

es while Matthew Gray is averaging 14.9 points per game.

Max Burd has turned in an impressive season with Lynn Camp and leads the team with a 19.2 scoring average while Maison Prater (15.3) and Matt Disney (10.0) follows.

Sean Phipps leads the way for Pineville with an 18.3 and 8.5 scoring and rebounding averages. Clay Gooding has a 13.8 scoring average while Keanan Fuson is averaging 10.1 points per game.

With all of that said, let's take a look at what each team has done in 51st District play up to Monday, Feb. 19.

Both Knox Central and Barbourville are 2-0 against district opponents on the season while Lynn Camp will be the No. 3 seed with a 1-2 mark and Pineville will be the No. 4 seed after posting an 0-3 record against district opponents.

Knox Central picked up a 65-58 win over Lynn Camp while also beating Pineville, 75-64.

Zach Patterson led the Panthers with 19 points against the Wildcats while Jevonte Turner added 18 points.

Knox Central had five players score in double figures against the Mountain Lions with Jevonte Turner's 20-point scoring effort leading the way while Isaac Mills (17 points), Kevionte Turner (11), Andrew Sizemore (11) and Zach Patterson (10) followed.

Cody Messer's Tigers defeated Lynn Camp, 63-60 while defeating Pineville, 64-55.

Shawn Vaughn dominated during Barbourville's three-point win over the Wildcats. He scored 26 points and finished with 14 rebounds while Jordan Collins added 12 points.

Jordan Collins (15 points) was one of four Tiger players to score in double figures against the Mountain Lions as Barbourville managed to pull out a nine-point victory.

Matthew Gray added 14 points while Shawn Vaughn (11 points) and Colby Martin (10) followed.

Lynn Camp's lone district win came against Pineville. The Wildcats pulled off a 62-49 victory as Matt Disney and Max Burd each scored 16 points apiece. Maison Prater added a 10-point scor-

SEE 51ST BOYS, PAGE 10

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GIRLS 51ST DISTRICT TOURNAMENT



Presley Partin and the Knox Central Lady Panthers posted a perfect 3-0 mark against 51st District teams this season. | FILE PHOTO

Lady Panthers' one-two-three punch hard to stop



Rodney Clarke's Lynn Camp Lady Wildcats dropped a 58-31 decision to No. 1 seed Knox Central back on Jan. 29. | FILE PHOTO

BY LES DIXON
Staff Writer

Knox Central was able to lay claim to the 51st District's top seed after putting together a perfect 3-0 mark against 51st District competition.

The Lady Panthers accomplished the feat the hard way by winning two of those games on the road.

The Lady Panthers are led by the solid one-two-three punch of Presley Partin, Caylan Mills and Zoey Liford.

The trio are hard to stop offensively with Partin leading the team with a 17.7 scoring average and a 6.8 rebounding average. Mills is averaging 13.4 points per game while

Zoey Liford possesses a 12.5 scoring average.

Eighth-grader Timberly Frederick is also a threat offensively. She leads the team in 3-pointers made with 55 while knocking down 41.7 percent of her shot attempts from behind the arc. She's also averaging 9.0 points per game.

Pineville will enter district tournament play as the No. 2 seed after posting a 2-1 mark against district opponents.

The Lady Mountain Lions possess a lethal one/two punch in Whitney Caldwell and Raegan King.

Caldwell is averaging 17.5 points per game and 5.3 rebounds per game

while King is averaging 15.7 points per game and a team-best 5.8 rebounds per game.

No. 3 seed Barbourville is a team to keep an eye on. Coach Andrea Hillard's Lady Tigers have the talent to pull off an upset with Brianna Gallagher leading her team with a 14.7 scoring average. She is also pulling down 8.9 rebounds per game. Abigail Smith follows with an 11.5 scoring average while Laura Smith is scoring 9.7 points per game and leads the team with a 10.4 scoring average.

Lynn Camp has had a lot of growing pains this season, winning only a handful of games after

making a run to the 13th Region Tournament semi-finals in 2019.

The Lady Wildcats have struggled at times on offense, reaching the 50-point plateau only four times as of Feb. 16. They're led in scoring by Abby Mabe's 6.4 scoring average while Alissa Crumpler is averaging 4.4 points per game.

51ST DISTRICT FIRST ROUND MATCHUP

No. 1 Knox Central vs. No. 4 Lynn Camp — The Lady Panthers enters

this matchup as heavy favorites after defeating Lynn Camp, 58-31, on Jan. 29.

Knox Central shot 21-of-59 from the floor during the win with Caylan Mills leading the way with 13 points while Zoey Liford added 12 points.

The Lady Wildcats struggles shooting the ball in the loss, hitting only 11-of-42 shot attempts as Abby Mabe led Lynn Camp with 13 points while Isabella Blevins followed with nine points.

Prediction — Knox Central just has too much talent for Lynn Camp to overcome. The Lady Panthers will roll in this game and advance with a 72-30 win.

No. 2 Pineville vs. No. 3 Barbourville — The two teams met on Feb. 4 with Pineville able to pull out a 49-33 win over the Lady Tigers.

Whitney Caldwell scored 18 points in the win while Raegan Ling followed with 13 points as the Lady Mountain

SEE 51ST GIRLS, PAGE 10



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Clay County's Connor Robinson is one of the key pieces to the Tigers' puzzle this season. | FILE PHOTO

49TH BOYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

this season with the Mountaineers winning, 75-46, on Dec. 7 before seeing the Cardinals pulling off a surprising 69-67 win on Feb. 17.

Prediction — This is a tough game to pick.

I thought Oneida Baptist had turned things around but after the Mountaineers' two-point loss to the Cardinals, I'm not sure who to pick.

I'm going to give a slight edge to Brad Marsee's squad. Look for Red Bird to slip past the Mountaineers with a 62-61 win.

49TH DISTRICT SEMIFINAL ROUND MATCHUP PREDICTIONS

No. 1 Clay County vs. Winner of No. 4 OBI/No. 5 Red Bird

The Tigers didn't have a hard time with either teams this season, posting a combined 4-0 record against both Oneida Baptist and Red Bird.

Clay County handed the Mountaineers losses of 79-57 and 81-56 while beating the Cardinals, 87-63 and 81-59.

Prediction — Clay County will advance whoever they play in the semifinals. Look for the

FEAR 'LES' 49TH DISTRICT BOYS RANKINGS

1. North Laurel Jaguars
2. Clay County Tigers
3. Jackson County Generals
4. Oneida Baptist Mountaineers
5. Red Bird Cardinals

Tigers to cruise to an easy 79-51 win over Red Bird.

No. 2 North Laurel vs. No. 3 Jackson County — The two teams played twice this season with North Laurel coming away with victories of 82-34 and 69-36.

Reed Sheppard recorded a quadruple double, with 24 points, 10 rebounds, 10 steals and 14 assists during the 82-34 win while Ryan Davidson added 23 points. Clay Sizemore hit 4-of-6 3-point attempts and finished with 12 points.

Logan Rose led Jackson County with 10 points while Clay Akemon added a six-point effort.

The second meeting saw Cole Kelley finish with 19 points as Ryan Davidson had 17 points while Reed Sheppard (14 points) and Isaiah Alexander (10 points) also scored in double figures.

Trenton Hammonds led the Generals with 11 points during the second meeting while Clay Akemon added eight points.

Prediction — This game isn't going to be an easy one for North Laurel. Jackson County will be playing at home while looking for some revenge after seeing the Jaguars eliminate the Generals from postseason play the past few years.

With that said, look for North Laurel to start heating up midway through the fourth quarter and pull out an 81-64 win.

49TH DISTRICT FINALS PREDICTION

No. 1 Clay County vs. No. 2 North Laurel — Everyone is expecting a Clay County vs. North Laurel matchup and I am, too.

Glenn Gray's squad is 2-0 against the Jaguars, but this time around, I believe North Laurel finds a way to win.

Look for big games out of Cole Kelley, Reed Sheppard and Ryan Davidson, but the key will be Isaiah Alexander. If he knocks down at least four 3-pointers the Jaguars will win.

Look for it to happen. North Laurel wins, 77-76.

49TH DISTRICT BOYS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Reed Sheppard, North Laurel
2. Jacob Curry, Clay County

3. Connor Robinson, Clay County
4. Cole Kelley, North Laurel
5. Ryan Davidson, North Laurel
6. Evan Langdon, North Laurel

7. Connor Farmer, Clay County
8. Jacob Hall, OBI
9. Logan Rose, Jackson County
10. Jakob Begley, Clay County



The key to beating Clay County is finding a way to contain senior Kaylee Mathis. Mathis has scored more than 3,000 points during her varsity career as a Lady Tiger. | FILE PHOTO

49TH GIRLS: North Laurel should pull away in the finals for the championship

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Look for North Laurel to hand Red Bird a 71-37 loss of the two teams play or if the Lady Jaguars play against Oneida Baptist, North Laurel will pick up a 67-24 victory.

No. 2 Clay County vs. No. 3 Jackson County — Now this is a matchup I can't wait to see.

The two teams have split a pair of games this season with Clay County coming away with a 63-38 win at home on Jan. 6.

Kaylee Mathis scored 27 points in the win while the Lady Tigers finished with 13 3-pointers. Clay County's defense came up huge, limiting Jackson County's Taya Davis to only two points on 0-for-13 shooting.

Davis and company got revenge on Feb. 13 by picking up a 58-57 overtime win over the Lady Tigers despite seeing Laexis Lewis score 24 points for Clay County while Kaylee Mathis added 19 points. No stats were updated for the game for Jackson County by deadline.

Prediction — This is a tough one to pick. I'm going to give the Lady Generals the dodge because they're playing at home. Look for

FEAR 'LES' 49TH DISTRICT GIRLS RANKINGS

1. North Laurel Lady Jaguars
2. Clay County Lady Tigers
3. Jackson County Lady Generals
4. Red Bird Lady Cardinals
5. Oneida Baptist Mountaineers



North Laurel sophomore Hailee Valentine leads the Lady Jaguars in scoring, averaging more than 14 points per game. | FILE PHOTO

two teams to have another thriller with Jackson County pulling off a 57-54 win.

49TH DISTRICT FINALS PREDICTION

No. 1 North Laurel vs. No. 3 Jackson County — If everything pans out the way I'm predicting, look for North Laurel and Jackson County to battle things out for the district title.

The Lady Jaguars are 2-0 against the Lady Generals with wins of 59-50 and 76-55.

I believe the third matchup will be another close game early before seeing North Laurel pull away with a 69-55 win.

49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Kaylee Mathis, Clay County
2. Hailee Valentine, North Laurel

3. Gracie Jervis, North Laurel
4. Halle Collins, North Laurel
5. Taya Davis, Jackson County
6. Isabel Gray, North Laurel

7. Emily Sizemore, North Laurel
8. Taylor Asher, Clay County
9. Kennedy Ward, Jackson County
10. Allysa Gibson, Red Bird

We wish all the players and coaches a safe and successful district tournament!

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Lillie Hall and the Williamsburg Lady Yellow Jackets Will face-off against top-seeded South Laurel during semifinal action of the 50th District Tournament. | FILE PHOTO

50TH GIRLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

50TH DISTRICT TOURNAMENT SEMIFINAL MATCHUPS

No. 1 South Laurel vs. No. 4 Williamsburg — The Lady Cardinals are 2-0 against Williamsburg this season with the first matchup turning out to be closer than expected while the second meeting saw total domination by South Laurel.

The Lady Yellow Jackets led most of the game during the two teams' first meeting on Jan. 2 before seeing South Laurel rally late in the game to pick up a 69-59 victory.

The Lady Cardinals were 24-of-55 from the floor, including going 9-of-23 from behind the arc as Amerah Steele scored a game-high 26 points while Brianna Howard added 13 points and Sydnie Hall finished with 11 points. Williamsburg was able to hold Ally Collett to seven points.

The Lady Yellow Jackets made the game close by dominating the boards. They finished with a 38-29 edge over South Laurel while also having four players score in double figures.

Mikkah Siler and Madison Chapman each scored 16 points apiece while Lillie Hall added 13 points and Gracie Lawson finished with 10 points.

The two teams faced each other again on Jan. 31 with the Lady Cardinals coming away with a dominating 85-30 victory.

The 30 points turned out to be the lowest offensive output of the season for Williamsburg.

Leading scorer Lillie Hall was limited to only four points. The Lady Yellow Jackets finished the game with a 10-of-32 shooting effort from the floor, including going 0-for-7 from 3-point range.

South Laurel hit 15 3-pointers in the win with Amerah Steele scoring 25 points and finished with 10 rebounds while Clara Collins scored 17 points and Sydnie Hall finished with 13 points.

Prediction — I do expect the third meeting between the two teams to be closer than their last meeting, but in the end, the Lady Cardinals have too much

fire power.

Look for South Laurel to cruise to a 72-49 win over Williamsburg.

No. 2 Corbin vs. No. 3 Whitley County — The two teams split a pair of games this season with both wins coming in the road.

Corbin was able to escape Whitley County with a 72-69 overtime win on Jan. 7 as Shelby Stewart turned in a 27-point scoring effort. Hannah Medlin and Bailey Stewart each chipped in 10 points apiece.

Isaac Wilson's squad connected on 20-of-57 shot attempts which included an 8-of-18 shooting effort from behind the arc.

The Lady Colonels short the ball well in the loss, finishing with a 25-of-49 shooting effort while hitting eight 3-pointers. Lindsey Shope led Whitley County with 25 points while Mikayla Wilder added 13 points.

Sean Pigman's squad dominated during the second meeting between the two teams as the Lady Colonels prevailed 63-41 on Feb. 7 despite shooting 19-of-49 from the floor.

They did manage to connect on 9-of-29 shot attempts from 3-point territory as Lindsey Shope scored 17 points while Kallie Housley added 16 points and Darcie Anderson tossed in 12 points.

The Lady Redhounds connected on only 14-of-33 shot attempts, including a 0-for-8 effort behind the arc while finishing with only 18 rebounds.

Shelby Stewart scored 16 points while Marissa Scott finished with 10 points.

Prediction — I expect this game to go down to the wire, but with the game being played at Whitley County, I'm Thinking the Lady Colonels find a way to get past Corbin. Look for the Lady Colonels to pull off a .65-60, win.

50TH DISTRICT FINALS PREDICTION

No. 1 South Laurel vs. No. 3 Whitley County

Look for this to be a good ole fashioned shootout. Both teams love to run and gun on offense and I believe we will see just that once the ball is tipped-off.

But just like I said before, South Laurel just had too much firepower. Look for the Lady Cardinals to pick up a 73-51 win.

FEAR 'LES' 50TH DISTRICT GIRLS RANKINGS

1. South Laurel Lady Cardinals
2. Whitley County Lady Colonels
3. Corbin Lady Redhounds
4. Williamsburg Lady Yellow Jackets



Slaht Hunter and the Williamsburg Yellow Jackets are trying to get back to the 13th Region Tournament for the first time since 2015. | FILE PHOTO

50TH BOYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

effort.

Williamsburg was able to get revenge on Feb. 4 by picking up a 73-72 win over the Redhounds.

Caleb Rose has a big game, scoring 30 points on 10-of-16 shooting from the floor while Slaht Hunter added 19 points and Jason Bray finished with 14 points.

The Yellow Jackets hit one 25-of-48 shot attempts while going 18-of-23 from the free-throw line.

Corbin has plenty of chances to win the game, but could hold on in the end.

Matthew Taylor scored 30 points while Josh Hibbitts added 18 points and Gavin Allen turned in an 11-point

scoring effort. The Redhounds finished the game connecting on 28-of-49 shot attempts.

Prediction — I expect another right game, but when it comes down to it, I've got to give Corbin a slight edge.

Look for Williamsburg to lead for most of the game before the play of

FEAR 'LES' 50 DISTRICT BOYS RANKINGS

1. South Laurel Cardinals
2. Williamsburg Yellow Jackets
3. Corbin Redhounds
4. Whitley County Colonels

Gavin Allen and Mathew Taylor takes over to give the Redhounds a 72-67 victory.

50TH DISTRICT FINALS PREDICTION

No. 1 South Laurel vs. No. 3 Corbin — The Cardinals are 2-0 against

their rivals and look for South Laurel to improve to 3-0 when it's all said and done.

Matt Cromer is going to have a big game along with Micah Anders. Look for the Cardinals to survive a scare before pulling out a 61-55 win.

50TH DISTRICT BOYS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Matt Cromer, South Laurel
2. Caleb Rose, Williamsburg

3. Slaht Hunter, Williamsburg
4. Matthew Taylor, Corbin
5. Brett Norvell, South Laurel
6. Micah Anders, South Laurel

7. Josh Hibbitts, Corbin
8. Alex Hostettler, South Laurel
9. Trevor Downs, Whitley County
10. Alex Byrley, Corbin

50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Ally Collett, South Laurel
2. Amerah Steele, South Laurel

3. Sydnie Hall, South Laurel
4. Lillie Hall, Williamsburg
5. Shelby Stewart, Corbin
6. Clara Collins, South Laurel

7. Bri Howard, South Laurel
8. Marissa Scott, Corbin
9. Lindsey Shope, Whitley County
10. Mikkah Siler, Williamsburg

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Shawn Vaughn and the Barbourville Tigers have struggled since Christmas Break. They are looking to get things back on track this week. | FILE PHOTO

51ST BOYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ing effort.

Max Burd added 23 points during the Wildcats' loss to Knox Central while Maison Prater and Matt Disney each scored 11 points. Burd's 24 points wasn't enough during Lynn Camp's 63-60 loss to Barbourville. Matt Disney scored 17 points in the loss while Maison Prater added 12 points.

Pineville could never get on track during any of its district games as Kean Fuson scored 19 points against Lynn Camp while Sean Phipps led the way with 21 points during the Mountain Lions' loss to Barbourville.

51ST DISTRICT BOYS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Jevonte Turner, Knox Central
2. Max Burd, Lynn Camp

3. Shawn Vaughn, Barbourville
4. Sean Phipps, Pineville
5. Zach Patterson, Knox Central
6. Maison Prater, Lynn Camp

FEAR 'LES' 51ST DISTRICT BOYS RANKINGS

1. Knox Central Panthers
2. Barbourville Tigers
3. Lynn Camp Wildcats
4. Pineville Mountain Lions

Phipps dished out 27 points against Knox Central while Clay Goodin added 15 points.

51ST DISTRICT FINALS PREDICTION

Knox Central vs. Barbourville — I'm expecting a Knox Central/Barbourville finals. Don't be surprised if the Tigers play the Panthers tough, but in the end, Knox Central will find a way to win while capturing its fifth straight 51st District championship with a 78-66 win.

7. Kevionte Turner, Knox Central
8. Isaac Mills, Knox Central
9. Dalton Mason, Pineville
10. Andrew Sizemore, Knox Central



The Barbourville Lady Tigers fell to Pineville earlier in the season, 49-33. | FILE PHOTO

51ST GIRLS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Lions finished the game hitting on 19-of-48 shot attempts.

Barbourville's Brianna Gallagher recorded a double-double (15 points, 10 rebounds) while Laura Smith added eight points and nine rebounds in the loss.

Prediction — This is a game that will be closer than many people think. Yes, Pineville will come away with the win but not after receiving a scare from the Lady Tigers first.

Look for the Lady Mountain Lions to come away with a 57-50 win

51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Whitney Caldwell, Pineville
2. Presley Partin, Knox Central
3. Caylan Mills, Knox Central

4. Raegan King, Pineville
5. Brittany Gallegher, Barbourville
6. Abbagail Amith, Barbourville

7. Zoey Liford, Knox Central
8. Timberly Fredrick, Knox Central
9. Summer Partin, Pineville
10. Lauren Smith, Barbourville

FEAR 'LES' 51ST DISTRICT GIRLS RANKINGS

1. Knox Central Lady Panthers
2. Pineville Lady Mountain Lions
3. Barbourville Lady Tigers
4. Lynn Camp Lady Wildcats

51ST DISTRICT FINALS PREDICTION

No. 1 Knox Central vs. No. 2 Pineville —The Lady Panthers just recently came away with a 60-55 road win over Pineville and I look for the Lady Panthers to come away with another win in the title game, outlasting the Lady Mountain Lions, 52-49.

We want to say "Good Luck" to all teams participating!



Advent Health



Fear 'Les' District Rankings at a glance

FEAR 'LES' 49TH DISTRICT BOYS RANKINGS

1. North Laurel Jaguars
2. Clay County Tigers
3. Jackson County Generals
4. Oneida Baptist Mountaineers
5. Red Bird Cardinals

FEAR 'LES' 49TH DISTRICT GIRLS RANKINGS

1. North Laurel Lady Jaguars
2. Clay County Lady Tigers
3. Jackson County Lady Generals
4. Red Bird Lady Cardinals
5. Oneida Baptist Mountaineers

FEAR 'LES' 50 DISTRICT BOYS RANKINGS

1. South Laurel Cardinals
2. Williamsburg Yellow Jackets
3. Corbin Redhounds
4. Whitley County Colonels

FEAR 'LES' 50TH DISTRICT GIRLS RANKINGS

1. South Laurel Lady Cardinals
2. Whitley County Lady Colonels
3. Corbin Lady Redhounds
4. Williamsburg Lady Yellow Jackets

FEAR 'LES' 51ST DISTRICT BOYS RANKINGS

1. Knox Central Panthers

2. Barbourville Tigers
3. Lynn Camp Wildcats
4. Pineville Mountain Lions

FEAR 'LES' 51ST DISTRICT GIRLS RANKINGS

1. Knox Central Lady Panthers
2. Pineville Lady Mountain Lions
3. Barbourville Lady Tigers
4. Lynn Camp Lady Wildcats

49TH DISTRICT BOYS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Reed Sheppard, North Laurel
2. Jacob Curry, Clay County
3. Connor Robinson, Clay County
4. Cole Kelley, North Laurel
5. Ryan Davidson, North Laurel
6. Evan Langdon, North Laurel
7. Connor Farmer, Clay County
8. Jacob Hall, OBI
9. Logan Rose, Jackson County
10. Jakob Begley, Clay County

49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Kaylee Mathis, Clay County
2. Hailee Valentine, North Laurel
3. Gracie Jervis, North Laurel
4. Halle Collins, North Laurel
5. Taya Davis, Jackson County

6. Isabel Gray, North Laurel
7. Emily Sizemore, North Laurel
8. Taylor Asher, Clay County
9. Kennedy Ward, Jackson County
10. Allysa Gibson, Red Bird

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3. Slaht Hunter, Williamsburg
4. Matthew Taylor, Corbin
5. Brett Norvell, South Laurel
6. Micah Anders, South Laurel
7. Josh Hibbitts, Corbin
8. Alex Hostettler, South Laurel
9. Trevor Downs, Whitley County
10. Alex Byrley, Corbin

50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Ally Collett, South Laurel
2. Amerah Steele, South Laurel
3. Sydnie Hall, South Laurel
4. Lillie Hall, Williamsburg
5. Shelby Stewart, Corbin
6. Clara Collins, South Laurel
7. Bri Howard, South Laurel
8. Marissa Scott, Corbin

9. Lindsey Shope, Whitley County
10. Mikkah Siler, Williamsburg

51ST DISTRICT BOYS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Jevonte Turner, Knox Central
2. Max Burd, Lynn Camp
3. Shawn Vaughn, Barbourville
4. Sean Phipps, Pineville
5. Zach Patterson, Knox Central
6. Maison Prater, Lynn Camp
7. Kevionte Turner, Knox Central
8. Isaac Mills, Knox Central
9. Dalton Mason, Pineville
10. Andrew Sizemore, Knox Central

51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TOP RANKED PLAYERS

1. Whitney Caldwell, Pineville
2. Presley Partin, Knox Central
3. Caylan Mills, Knox Central
4. Raegan King, Pineville
5. Brittany Gallegher, Barbourville
6. Abbagail Amith, Barbourville
7. Zoey Liford, Knox Central
8. Timberly Fredrick, Knox Central
9. Summer Partin, Pineville
10. Lauren Smith, Barbourville



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*Good
Luck!*

**to all teams in the
tournament!**

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