





THE TIMES-TRIBUNE & SENTINEL-ECHO'S 2021 DISTRICT TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

49TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT

Jaguars the popular pick to bring home the district crown



PHOTO BY LES NICHOLSON

Ryan Davidson is one of the most versatile players in the 13th Region.

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

LONDON — North Laurel has turned in its best season in school history to date, and look to be the popular pick to win this year's 49th District champion-

The Jaguars are led by sophomore sensation Reed Sheppard along with Ryan Davidson, Brody Brock,

Clay Sizemore, Nate North Laurel a tough Bruner and Caden Harris.

Is Clay County the team to slow down North Laurel? The Tigers could be but first they'll have to get past a Jackson County team they've beaten twice this season. If a Tigers/Jaguars matchup does happen, look for Clay County to give

49th District **Tournament** Outlook No. 1 North Laurel vs. No. 4 Red Bird

The Jaguars have been red-hot the entire season and was able to cap off a perfect 3-0 district record when they rolled past Red



North Laurel's Reed Sheppard is one of the top scorers in the state.

Bird last week.

North Laurel is going to be a tough out because of the play of sophomores Reed Sheppard, Ryan Davidson and Brody Brock, juniors Clay

Sizemore and Caden Harris, senior Nate

SEE JAGUARS, PAGE 8B

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49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT

Can anyone slow down the North Laurel Lady Jaguars?



North Laurel's Hailee Valentine has been a big part of the Lady Jaguars' success this season.



McKnight is an inside force for North Laurel. She's turned in numerous double-doubles



considered one of the top players in the 13th Region.

losing a 59-51 decision to Clay County back in 2018.

Many believe this could be the season Jackson County returns to the 13th Region Tournament. They dropped their only matchup to North Laurel but managed to go 2-0 against a Lady Tiger squad that is playing its basketball as of late.

49th District Girls Tournament Outlook

No. 1 North Laurel vs. No. 4 Red Bird The two teams met

way back in Jan. 4 with North Laurel coming away with an easy 98-23 win over the Lady Cardinals.

By Les Dixon

Staff Writer

one slow down Eddie

Mahan's North Laurel

Lady Jaguars? North

Laurel was won 23 dis-

trict games in a row since

LONDON — Can any-

A lot has changed for both teams since then with the Lady Jaguars'

leading scorer in that game, Halle Collins, transferring time Knox Central midway through the season.

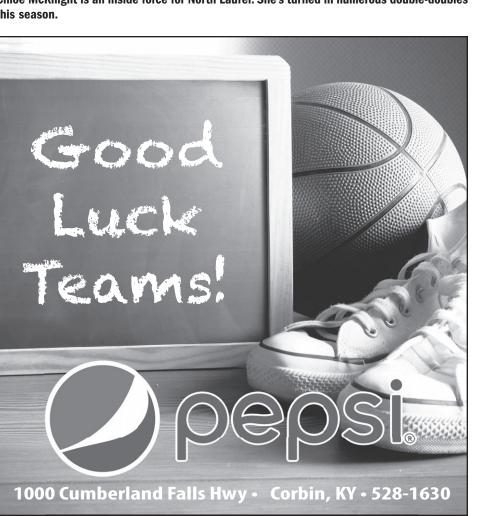
Collins scored 20 points in the win while Emily Sizemore added 13 points, Chloe McKnight recorded 12 points and 12 rebounds and Hailee Valentine finished with 10 points.

The Lady Jaguars turned in a 40-of-69 shooting effort in the win while also pulling down impressive rebounds.

Red Bird struggled throughout the game against North Laurel. Leading scorer Alyssa Gibson was limited to three points while Liberty Taylor led the Lady Cardinals with 10

SEE NORTH, PAGE 8B





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50TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT



PHOTO BY LES NICHOLSON

Tony Pietrowski's Corbin Redhounds posted a 4-2 mark against 50th District competition this season.

Look for a Corbin vs. South Laurel showdown in the finals



Rhys England has impressed this season with his inside play for the South Laurel Cardinals.

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

LONDON — South Laurel enters the tournament as the No. 1 seed in

District Tournament and deservedly so after posting a perfect 6-0 record against 50th District opponents.

The Cardinals have surprised many this season and has what it takes to win another district crown but another team

to look out for is Tony Corbin Pietrowski's Redhounds. They're playing some of the best basketball in the 13th Region currently. The Redhounds are stocked with offensive weapons and will be a hard team to knock off.

Both Whitley County and Williamsburg will try to play the spoilers role and attempt to grab a win during semifinal action but it won't be easy. Both teams went an identical 0-2 against both FEAR 'LES' 50TH DISTRICT BOYS TEAM RANKINGS

1. Corbin

2. South Laurel 3. Williamsburg 4. Whitley County

Corbin and South Laurel. son.

50th District **Tournament** Outlook No. 1 South Laurel

The Cardinals posted wins of 78-41, and 60-25, respectively during their two meetings with Williamsburg this sea-

vs. No. 4 Williamsburg

South Laurel's defensive play was outstanding both games, limiting the Yellow Jackets to 33.3 percent shooting in game one and 34.5 percent shooting in game two.

Williamsburg star Micah Steely was held to 10 points in the first con-

SEE **SHOWDOWN.** PAGE **9B**





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50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT



Chris Souder's South Laurel Lady Cardinals posted a 1-1 record against Corbin this season.

The championship is completely up for grabs this year



The Corbin Lady Redhounds finished 50th District play with a 4-2 record.

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

LONDON — The 50th District Tournament is going to be an interesting one to watch. Three teams (Corbin, South Laurel and Whitley) each have identical 4-2 district records while Williamsburg posted an 0-6 mark against district opponents.

It's really been a rollercoaster of a season for each team. Corbin posted a 1-2 mark at while South Laurel and Whitley

50TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 13

At Williamsburg

Semifinals Williamsburg vs. Whitley County, 5 p.m. South Laurel vs. Corbin, 7:30 p.m.

> Tuesday, March 16 Finals TBD, 7 p.m.

County turned in 2-1 records playing at home. The three teams also split a air of games against each other.

The Lady Colonels winter as the district's top seed which means both Corbin (No. 2 seed) and South Laurel (No. 3 seed) will faceoff in an elimination game. Williamsburg is the No. 4 seed and will

PHOTO BY DARRIN SPENCER

County. 50th District **Tournament**

go up against Whitley

Outlook 1 Whitley County vs. No. 4

Williamsburg The Lady Colonels have had some struggles as of late but remain favorites in this matchup, and deservedly so after posting a mark against Williamsburg.

Whitley County won the first matchup,

points. Mikayla Wilder Colones shot a red-hot and Natalie Moses each 15-of-34 from 3-point range while four players scored in double figures. Marissa Douglas scores 24 points while Jayce

Monhollen added 22

added 15 points apiece. Mikkah Siler has a

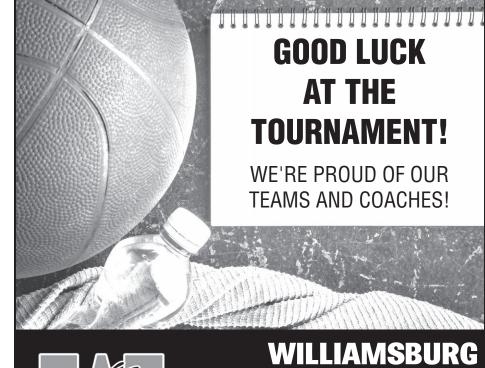
huge game for the Lady Yellow Jackets, finishing with 39 points and

SEE GRABS, PAGE 10B

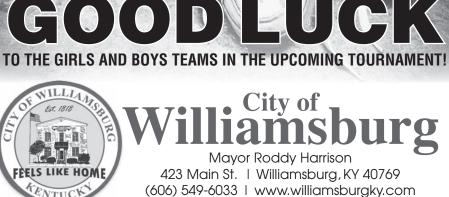


PHOTO BY JOHN CRISOLOGO Darcie Anderson has hit two last second shots this season for Whitley County.









51ST DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT



PHOTO BY JOHN CRISOLOGO

Lynn Camp junior Micah Engle is one of the top scorers in the 13th Region.

Lynn Camp has the talent to topple Knox Central

By Les Dixon

Staff Writer LONDON Tony Patterson's Knox Central Panthers enter this year's 51st District Tournament with hopes of capturing their sixth consecutive district championships while keeping their hopes alive of winning a third straight 13th Region

The Panthers are winners

FEAR 'LES' 51ST DISTRICT BOYS PLAYERS RANKINGS

- 1. Jevonte Turner, Knox Central
- 2. Micah Engle, Lynn Camp
- 3. Matthew Gray, Barbourville
- 4. Isaac Mills, Knox Central 5. Keean Fuson, Pineville

son games with hopes of dominating again this season. But to do so, they're going to have to find a way to get past

Barbourville, Lynn Camp and

of five consecutive postsea-Pineville.

The Tigers have battled injuries the entire season while the Wildcats have enough talent to play with anyone this season. The Mountain Lions could be an opponent to keep an eye out

But when it's all said and done, I'm not sure anyone can keep the Panthers from winning another district title.

51st District Boys **Tournament** Outlook

No. 1 Knox Central vs.

No. Pineville

The Panthers were clicking on all cylinders during their 93-36 win over Pineville. Jevonte Turner tossed in 43 points while Gavin Chadwell added nine points.

Knox Central shot 57.1 percent (36-of-63) while knocking downs seven 3-pointers while finishing with 36

SEE TALENT, PAGE 10B



51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT



PHOTO BY JOHN CRISOLOGO

Lynn Camp finished 51st District play with a 1-2 record.

Lady Wildcats face tough opening round challenge with Pineville

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

LONDON — It looks as if it could be a two-team race between top seed Knox Central and No. 2 seed Pineville when it comes to the 51st District Girls Tournament.

The two teams have been ranked in the upper tier of the 13th Region for most of the season and they're going to be a tough out for either Lynn

FEAR 'LES' 51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TEAM RANKINGS

- 1. Knox Central
- 3. Lynn Camp
- 4. Barbourville

Camp or Barbourville.

Coach Darrell Hendrix has done a fantastic job with the Lady Wildcats but the key will be his team's offensive play. The same goes for veteran

2. Pineville

51st District Girls **Tournament Outlook**

coach Scott Broughton's Lady Tigers.

No. 1 Knox Central vs.

No. 4 Barbourville

The Lady Panthers cruised to an easy 64-26 win over Barbourville during the two teams only meeting this season.

The Lady Tigers failed to have anyone score in double figures with Sarah Smith's nine points leading the way. They finished the game shooting 9-of-38 from the floor while finishing with 32 rebounds.

Knox Central had four players score in double figures with Jaylynn Faine lead the way with 15 points. Brianna Gallagher had 14 points while Caylan Mills finished with 13 points. Zoey Liford turned in a 12-point scoring effort. Isabella Frost pulled down a careerhigh 19 rebounds.

SEE CHALLENGE, PAGE 17B



49TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT BRACKET

AT CLAY COUNTY MONDAY, MARCH 15 Semifinal

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 16 Semifinal

Red Bird vs. North Laurel, 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 18 **Finals**

TBD, 7 p.m.



Caden Harris has supplied North Laurel with solid play throughout the season.

JAGUARS

Continued from page 2B

Bruner along with a deep bench. Prediction: North Laurel 82, Red Bird 33

No. 2 Clay County vs. No. 3 **Jackson County**

Glenn Gray's Tigers are a perfect 2-0 against Jackson County this season, recording wins of 75-59, and 85-58.

Connor Robinson had a huge game during the first contest, scoring 35 points while finishing with seven rebounds. Tate Farmer (15 points), Raven Abner (11 points) and Connor Farmer (10 points) also scored in double figures.

The Tigers hit 26-of-62 shot attempts, including a 7-of-23 effort from 3-point range.

Clay Akemon led Jackson County with 19 points while Jude Lakes added 17 points and Nicholas Terry finished with 12 points.

The Generals shot 20-of-46 from the floor but was only 1-of-16 from 3-point range.

Connor Farmer led the way for Clay County in the second meeting. He scored 24 points while Robinson and Abner

FEAR 'LES' 49TH DISTRICT **BOYS TEAM RANKINGS**

1. North Laurel 2. Clay County

3. Jackson County 4. Red Bird

FEAR 'LES' 49TH DISTRICT **BOYS PLAYERS RANKINGS**

 Reed Sheppard, North Laurel 2. Ryan Davidson, North Laurel

3. Connor Robinson, Clay County

4. Connor Farmer, Clay County

5. Brody Brock, North Laurel

5. Clay Sizemore, North Laurel

added 22 points apiece. The Tigers shot a red-hot 31-of-50 while hitting 11 3-pointers in the

Lakes led Jackson County with 15 points While Terry finished with 14 points in the second meeting. The Generals shot 50 percent (20-of-40) from the floor but couldn't come up with

Prediction: Clay County 78, Jackson County 52

49th District Boys Finals Prediction North Laurel 86, Clay County 72

The Jaguars already won one matchup between the two teams, and I expect North Laurel to make it 2-0 after beating the Tigers in the title game.

I do believe Clay County has the talent to hang with the Jaguars but the big question will be if the Tigers can slow down The Jaguars' offensive attack.

North Laurel won the first meeting between the two teams, 99-74, while five players scored in double figures. If the Jaguars have four or five players score in double figures again, it's going to be cruise control for Nate Valentine's team.



North Laurel was won 23 district games in a row since losing a 59-51 decision to Clay County back in 2018.

NORTH

Continued from page 3B

points.

Red Bird finished the game connecting on only 7-of-31 shot attempts while pulling down only five rebounds.

Prediction: North Laurel 74, Red Bird 27

No. 2 Jackson County vs. No. 3 Clay The Lady Generals are 2-0 against Clay

County this season after coming away with victories of 41-32, and 50-47, respectively. Abby Gilbert led Jackson County with 12 points in the first meeting while Natalie Carr

followed with an 11-point scoring effort. The Lady Generals shot 16-of-50 from the floor, including going 3-of-18 from 3-point range. Taylor Asher led Clay County with 18 points in the loss while Madison Curry added eight points. The Lady Tigers hit 11-of-38 shot

attempts from 3-point range. Kenady Ward came up big during Jackson County's 50-47 win. She scored 16 points and pulled down five rebounds Jenna Creech and Abby Gilbert followed with eight points apiece.

attempts while knocking down 4-of-14 shot

The Lady Generals shot way better from the floor, hitting 21-of-38 shit attempts while pulling down 28 rebounds.

Clay County struggled from the floor once again, hitting only 15-of-40 shot attempts, including a 10-of-27 effort from behind the arc. The Lady Tigers also finished with only 13 rebounds.

Taylor Asher led Clay County with 19 points while hitting five 3-pointers.

Prediction: Clay County 47, Jackson County 44

49th District Girls Finals Prediction **North Laurel 61, Clay County 49**

The Lady Tigers will make this a close game because that's what they do best. North Laurel owns a 57-42 win over Clay County and I expect them to win again behind the play of juniors Emily Sizemore and Hailee Valentine.

FEAR 'LES' 49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TEAM RANKINGS

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

FEAR 'LES' 49TH DISTRICT GIRLS PLAYERS RANKINGS

1. Emily Sizemore, North Laurel 1. Hailee Valentine, North Laurel

3. Chloe McKnight, North Laurel 4. Taylor Asher, Clay County

5. Kenady Ward, Jackson County

49TH DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT **BRACKET**

At Clay County Monday, March 15 Semifinal Jackson County at Clay County, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16 Semifinal Red Bird vs. North Laurel, 6 p.m.

> Friday, March 19 Finals TBD, 7 p.m.





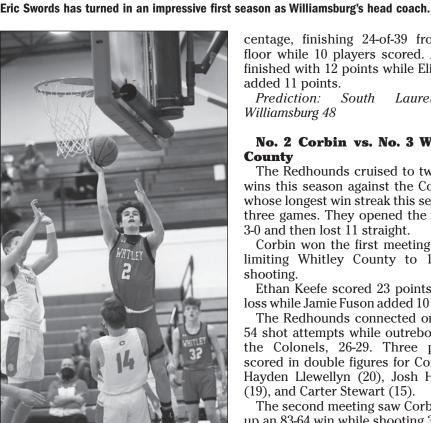


PHOTO BY DARRIN SPENCER Whitley County posted a 1-5 mark against 50th District teams this season.

SHOWDOWN

Continued from page 4B

test, and 12 points in the second matchup. He's averaging close to 24 points a

The Cardinals were able to have three players score in double figures in the first meeting with Micah Anders' 17 points leading the way while Rhys England added 14 points and Braydon Reed added 11 points. South Laurel shot an efficient 28-of-49 shot attempts during the win.

The second matchup saw the

centage, finishing 24-of-39 from the floor while 10 players scored. Anders finished with 12 points while Eli Gover added 11 points.

Prediction: South 68, Laurel Williamsburg 48

No. 2 Corbin vs. No. 3 Whitley County

The Redhounds cruised to two easy wins this season against the Colonels, whose longest win streak this season is three games. They opened the season 3-0 and then lost 11 straight.

Corbin won the first meeting, 78-57, limiting Whitley County to 19-of-51

Ethan Keefe scored 23 points in the loss while Jamie Fuson added 10 points.

The Redhounds connected on 26-of-54 shot attempts while outrebounding the Colonels, 26-29. Three players scored in double figures for Corbin -Hayden Llewellyn (20), Josh Hibbitts (19), and Carter Stewart (15).

The second meeting saw Corbin pick up an 83-64 win while shooting 36-of-75

FEAR 'LES' 50TH DISTRICT

- **BOYS PLAYERS RANKINGS** 1. Hayden Llewellyn, Corbin
- 2. Micah Steely, Williamsburg 3. Josh Hibbitts, Corbin
- 4. Parker Payne, South Laurel 5. Micah Anders, South Laurel

50TH DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT

Saturday, March 13 At Williamsburg

Semifinals

Williamsburg vs. South Laurel, 12 p.m. Whitley County vs. Corbin, 2:30 p.m.

Monday, March 15

Finals

Cardinals shoot an even higher per-TBD, 7 p.m. TO ALL THE BOYS **AND GIRLS TEAMS! CORBIN SCHOOLS CENTRAL OFFICE** 108 Roy Kidd Avenue • Corbin, Kentucky 606-528-1303 • www.corbinschools.org from the floor.

Hayden Llewellyn scored 24 points in the win while Josh Hibbitts added 14 points and Brody Wells finished with 10 points.

Whitley County had four players score in double figures — Ethan Keene (17 points), Jamie Fuson (15 points), Brayden Mahan (12 points), and Jackson Petrey (11 points).

Prediction: Corbin 88, Whitley County

50th District Boys Finals

Prediction Corbin 66, South Laurel 56

The Cardinals are 2-0 against the Redhounds this season, winning the first matchup 83-64 and the second meeting, 71-62.

With that said, the Redhounds are playing really well right now. Coach Tony Pietrowski has done a fantastic job to rebound from a 3-6 start.

But Jeff Davis has turned in one heck of a coaching effort this season. South Laurel wasn't expected to do much this season, but here they are, ready to defend their district title.

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Continued from page 5B

12 rebounds while Kaylee Graham and Sabrina Lewis each scored 14 points apiece. Williamsburg was

without the services of Siler, and Whitley County took advantage. The Lady Colonels limited Randy Crider's squad to 15-of-59 shooting from the floor which included going 2-of-16 from 3-point range. Alexis Wilson led the way with 11 points while Lewis added 10 points.

Darcie Anderson led Whitley County with 16 points while Wilder finished with 12 points and Reis Anderson turned in an 11-point scoring output.

Prediction: Whitley County 84, Williamsburg

No. 2 Corbin vs. No. 3 South Laurel This could be the

best game of the tournament. The two teams split a

pair of games while winning in each other's home court. The Lady Redhounds won the first meeting, 65-54, as Bailey Stewart turned in a 19-point scoring effort. Shelby Stewart followed with 14 points while Kallie Housley added 11 points.

Corbin connected on 22-of-47 shot attempts while finishing with 26 rebounds.

South Laurel's Rachel Presley did all she could to keep her team in the game, scoring 21 points and finishing with 12 rebounds. Brianna Howard added 14 points and Corbin Miller finished with 10 The Lady Cardinals

were about to get some payback during the second meeting, going on the road to pick up a 65-48 win. Presley added 22

points and seven rebounds while Reagan Jones scored 17 points and finished with 13 rebounds. Howard added 14 points and Kyle Clem finished with 10 points. South Laurel shot 23-off-44 from the floor.

Shelby Stewart did all she could do to keep her team in the game. She scored 24 points on 9-of-18 shooting while Housley finished with 14 points.

Prediction: South Laurel 66, Corbin 62

50th District Girls Finals **Prediction** South Laurel 69, **Whitley County 66**

Chris Souder's squad started the season with a 1-5 start but continued to improve as the season progressed.

If you'd asked me a month ago if I thought South Laurel could win another district title this season, I would have said, 'No.'

The But Lady Cardinals have turned things around, and I'm thinking they'll find a way to beat the Lady Colonels for the second time this season. It won't be easy, but I expect them to get the job done.

FEAR 'LES' 50TH DISTRICT **GIRLS TEAM RANKINGS**

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

FEAR 'LES' 50TH DISTRICT GIRLS PLAYERS RANKINGS

1. Mikkah Siler, Williamsburg 2. Rachel Presley, South Laurel

3. Kallie Housley, Corbin

4. Shelby Stewart, Corbin

5. Gracie Jo Wilder, Whitley County



Rodney Clarke's Lynn Camp Wildcats will face Barbourville during semifinal action of the **51st District Tournament.**

TALENT

Continued from page 6B

rebounds.

The Mountain Lions just could t get on track, and Knox Central plates a big role in why they couldn't. They hit on only 11-of-37 shot attempts while finishing with only 14 rebounds.

Keean Fuson led Pineville with 10 points while Eli Thomson and Evan Biliter each scored seven points apiece.

Prediction: Knox Central 89, Pineville 58

No. 2 Barbourville vs. No. 3 **Lynn Camp**

The Tigers have dealt with almost everything you can deal with this past season. From having players sick, to also getting injured. If it's not been one thing, it's been another for Cody Messer's Tigers.

Despite all of that, Barbourville did manage to record a 62-54 win over Lynn Camp. The Tigers turned in a solid effort, shooting 26-of-47 from the floor. Matthew Gray led the way with 19 points while Dylan Moore Dddd 18 points and Matthew Warren finished with 15 points.

Rodney Clarke's Wildcats 21-of-50 from the floor' including a 3-of-18 from 3-point range. Micah Engle led Lynn Camp with 28 points and nine rebounds. Gavin Allen turned in a 12-point scoring effort.

Prediction: Pineville 69, Lynn Camp

51st District Boys Finals

FEAR 'LES' 51ST DISTRICT **BOYS TEAM RANKINGS**

1. Knox Central

2. Lynn Camp 3. Barbourville

4. Pineville

51ST DISTRICT BOYS TOURNAMENT BRACKET At Barbourville

Tuesday, March 16 Semifinal

Wednesday, March 17 Semifinal Lynn Camp at Barbourville, 7 p.m.

Knox Central vs. Pineville, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

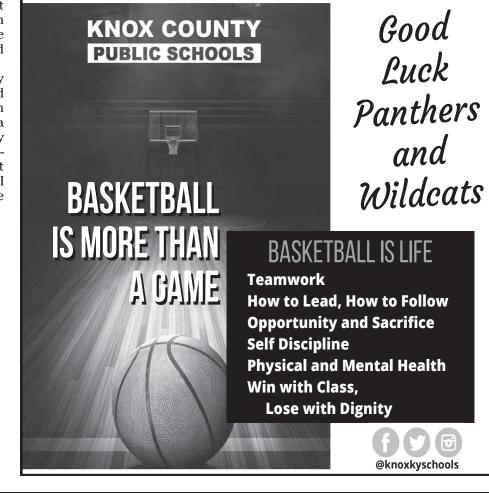
TBD, 7 p.m.

Prediction **Knox Central 85, Lynn Camp**

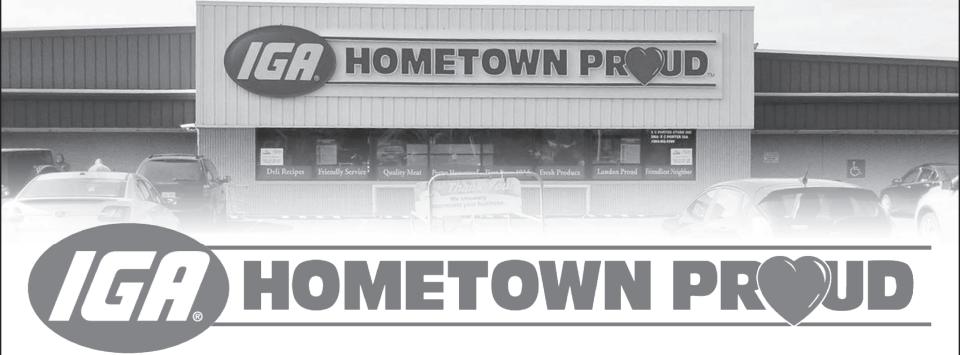
Knox Central is primed and ready to make another run for a 13th Region championship. But before the Panthers can do that, they'll have to find a way to get a way in the 51st District title game.

I do believe they'll do it in fine fashion. Knox Central just has too much firepower right now.

Lynn Camp's Micah Engle, Gavin Allen, Luke Ledington, Spencer Gilbert and Jace Boggs will have to step up their play to gain close with the Panthers. I believe they will but in the end, Knox Central has too much firepower.



GOOD LUCK TO ALL OUR DISTRICT ATHLETES!



11B



Rachel Presley led South Laurel with 14 points during the Lady Cardinals' 62-44 win over Shelby Valley on Saturday.

Lady Cardinals secure 62-44 win over Shelby Valley during Kentucky **Prep Classic**

> By Les Dixon Staff Writer

SHELBY VALLEY — South Laurel was able to even its current eightgame road trip record to 3-3 on Saturday.

The Lady Cardinals (15-10) fought back from a one-point deficit heading into the second quarter and eventually cruised to an easy, 62-44, win over Shelby Valley during the Kentucky Prep Classic.

Nine different players scored in the win for a South Laurel team that was coming off a 30-point loss to Pikeville from the day before.

Rachel Presley scored 14 points while Kylie Clem followed with 13 points. Emily Cox added nine points while Reagan Jones and Clara Collins each turned in identical eight-point scoring-efforts.

Six different Lady Cardinals scored in the second quarter, including a 3-pointer by Clem that helped give South Laurel a 26-22 lead at halftime.

Jones and Collins each scored

SEE CLASSIC, PAGE 16B



PHOTO BY LES DIXON

North Laurel's Ryan Davidson went up strong for a layup during Monday's game against Red Bird.

North Laurel ends two-game skid with 86-19 win over Red Bird

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

LONDON — No. 6 ranked North Laurel was able to get back to its winning ways on Monday after upending Red Bird with ease, 86-19.

The Jaguars (20-2) turned in a 35-of-67 shooting effort, including going 12-of-30 from 3-point range. They outrebounded the Cardinals, 48-19, which led to 36 secondchance points while forcing Red Bird into 22 turnovers, which led to 35 points.

"Tonight was good to get back on the court and get back to work," North Laurel coach Nate Valentine said. "We came in very focused and played hard. Red Bird is obviously outmanned this season but I'm proud of our guys for taking care of business. It will be good to get some practice time to get ready for postseason play."

North Laurel jumped out to a 35-7 lead in the first quarter thanks to four 3-pointers by Brody Brock and

BATTLE OF THE CARDS



PHOTOS BY LES NICHOLSON

South Laurel's Micah Anders glided to the basket during Monday's blowout win over Wayne County.

South Laurel cruises past Wayne County with 75-44 win

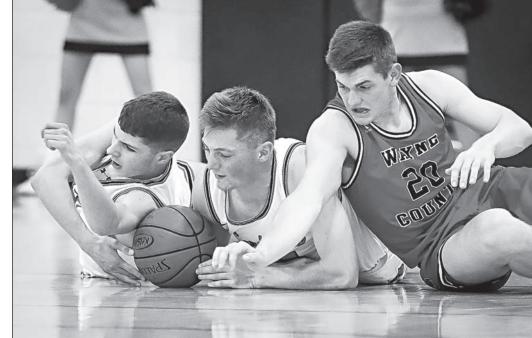
By John Stepp

LONDON — The South Laurel Cardinals have been on a roll as of late, and they continued to roll through the competition on Monday, with a 75-44 win against the visiting Wayne County Cardinals.

The win was the fifth straight for South Laurel, who wrapped up their regular season with the victory. Ten different players scored for the Cardinals on Monday, led by Parker Payne with 17. Micah Anders added 16 points, while Rhys England scored eight, and Caden Jones and Brayden Reed scored

seven points, apiece. Coach Jeff Davis was able to clear the floor and let his bench play most of the second half, especially

in the fourth quarter. The game was all South Laurel from the very start.



South Laurel's Eli Gover, and Brayden Reed battled a Wayne County player for possession of a loose ball.

Davis' crew started out with a 23-13 lead at the end of the first. Payne got off to a hot start, scoring six points in the opening period, and Anders added eight, knocking down two three-pointers.

Anders continued his momentum in the second

SEE CARDS, PAGE 13B



Eli Gover attempted a 3-pointer during first half action of Monday's game against Wayne County.

DEFENDING THEIR TURF



North Laurel's Ryan Davidson attempted a hook shot over Evangel Christian's Cyr Malonga.

Jaguars capture 17th straight home win, finish regular season with program-best 21-2 mark

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

LONDON — North Laurel was able to cap off a perfect home record for 2021 after blowing past Evangel Christian on Monday, 95-76.

Jaguars (21-2)

capped off its best regular season in program history by going 12-0 at home while running its win streak at The Jungle

The

to 17 consecutive games overall.

"We really responded tonight, especially in the first half," North Laurel coach Nate Valentine said. "It capped off a tremendous regular season going 21-2. I'm just really proud of our team for the way they handled this season amid all the restrictions. They made sacrifices that allowed us to keep playing and avoid shutdowns. We now have to refocus and get ready for post-season play."

Nate Valentine's squad hit 11 of their 12 3-pointers during the first half while building leads of 32-15 at the end of the first quarter and 54-34 at halftime.

Sophomore Reed Shep-



Brody Brock attempted a contested 3-pointer during Tuesday's game against Evangel Christian.

pard turned in another perfortriple-double mance, finishing with 29 points, 10 rebounds, 13 assists, five steals, and two blocked shots. Ryan Davidson followed with 26 points and eight rebounds while Brody Brock turned in a 16-point scoring effort

and Clay Sizemore finished with 16 points and five 3-pointers.

North Laurel was actually outscored 42-41 during second-half action but the

damage had been done. The Jaguars hit 32-of-64 shot attempts, including a 12-of-28 effort from 3-point range. North Laurel was 11-of-19 from behind the arc in the first half.

Valentine's squad outrebounded the Eagles, 39-34, while forcing them into 16 turnovers. Evangel Christian connected on 26of-66 from the floor while going 13-of-29 from 3-point range.

North Laurel will now shift its focus to next week's 49th District Tournament. The Jaguars will winter the tournament as the No. 1 seed and will face-off against Red Bird at 7:30 p.m. the two teams met earlier this week with North Laurel coming away with an 86-19 win. The tournament will be held at Clay County High School.

North Laurel 95, Evangel Christian 76

Evangel Christian 15 19 24 18 76

North Laurel 32 22 25 16 95

Evangel Christian (76) Black 19, Mabfy 27, Malonga 12, Price 3, Scrivener 3, Martin 3, Mercer 9.

North Laurel (95) -Sheppard 29, Bruner 1, Sizemore 15, Davidson 26, Brock 16, Harris 2, Reynolds 4, Elza 2.

North Laurel caps off eight-game road trip with 64-53 win over Pulaski Co.

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

SOMERSET — Eddie Mahan's North Laurel Lady Jaguars capped off one of the toughest eight-game stretches they've been a part of on Saturday by handing Pulaski County a 64-53

The 11-point win allowed North Laurel to post a 6-2 record during its eight-game road trip which included wins over Jackson County, Whitley County, Rockcastle County, Bell County, Corbin, and Pulaski County. Their two losses were a two-point setback to Holy Cross and a 12-point loss to

Southwestern. "We played with a little more team ownership today and you could really see it in the second and third quarters," Mahan said. "At the end of the day, teams have to know that their performance is in their own

The Lady Jaguars showed no signs of fatigue even after coming off a hard-fought, 80-72, win against Corbin the night before. They fell behind 18–12 after eight minutes of play but outscored the Lady Maroons, 55-35, the remainder of the game.

Chloe McKnight led North Laurel with 20 points while Emily Sizemore added 18 points and Hailee Valentine finished with 13 points.

"Chloe McKnight continues to improve every game and you can see our team is learning how to play with a dominate post," Mahan said. "I think our ability to utilize her will be a big key for us in postseason play.'



Chloe McKnight scored 20 points during North Laurel's win over Pulaski County on Saturday.

Laurel County Elementary Standings and **Boxscores**

2021 Elementary Basketball Stand-

1. Bush 7-0

2. Wyan-Pine Grove 6-1

2. Cold Hill 6-1

4. East Bernstadt 5-2

5. Johnson 4-3

5. London 4-3 7. Sublimity 3-4

7. Hunter Hills 3-4

9. Keavy 2-5

10. Hazel Green 1-6

10. Camp Ground 1-6 12. Colony 0-7

Girls

1. Cold Hill 7-0 1. Camp Ground 7-0

3. Bush 6-1

4. Johnson 5-2 5. East Bernstadt 4-3

6. Sublimity 3-4 6. London 3-4

8. Keavy 2-5

8. Colony 2-5 8. Hunter Hills 2-5

11. Hazel Green 1-6

12. Wyan-Pine Grove 0-7

Boys Breakdown Bush

son, Hazel Green, Cold Hill, Sublimity, East Bernstadt

Losses -**Campground** Wins - Colony Losses - Hazel Green, Keavy, Hunter

Wins - Hunter Hills, London, John-

Hills, East Bernstadt, London, Wyan-Pine Grove

Wins - Colony, Johnson, Hazel Green,

East Bernstadt, Keavy, Sublimity **Losses** – Bush

Colony Wins -

Losses - Cold Hill, Hunter Hills, East

Bernstadt, Campground, Wyan-Pine Grove, Johnson, London **East Bernstadt**

Wins – London, Hazel Green, Colony,

Campground, Wyan-Pine Grove Losses - Cold Hill, Bush

Hazel Green

Wins - Campground

Losses - East Bernstadt, Cold Hill,

Bush, Sublimity, Hunter Hills, Keavy **Hunter Hills** Wins - Colony, Campground, Hazel

Losses - Bush, Wyan-Pine Grove, London, Johnson **Johnson**

- Sublimity, Keavy, Colony, Wins

Losses - Wyan-Pine Grove, Cold Hill,

Bush

Keavy **Wins** – Campground, Hazel Green

London, Johnson, Cold Hill London Wins - Keavy, Hunter Hills, Camp-

Losses – Sublimity, Wyan-Pine Grove,

ground, Colony Losses - East Bernstadt, Bush, Sublimity

Sublimity

Wins - Keavy, London, Hazel Green Losses - Wyan-Pine Grove, Johnson, Bush, Cold Hill

Wyan-Pine Grove

Wins - Johnson, Sublimity, Keavy, Hunter Hills, Colony, Campground **Losses** – East Bernstadt

Girls Breakdown

Bush

Wins - Hunter Hills, London, Johnson, Hazel Green, Sublimity, East Bernstadt Losses – Cold Hill

Campground

Wins - Hazel Green, Keavy, Hunter Hills, Colony, East Bernstadt, London, Wyan-Pine Grove

Losses -**Cold Hill**

Wins - Colony, Johnson, Hazel Green, East Bernstadt, Bush, Keavy, Sublimity

Wins - Hunter Hills, Wyan-Pine Grove Losses - Cold Hill, East Bernstadt,

Campground, Johnson, London East Bernstadt Wins - London, Hazel Green, Colony,

Wyan-Pine Grove Losses - Cold Hill, Campground, Bush **Hazel Green**

Wins - Keavy Losses - Campground, East Bernstadt,

Cold Hill, Bush, Sublimity, Keavy **Hunter Hills**

Wins – Wyan-Pine Grove Losses - Bush, Colony, Campground,

London, Hazel Green, Johnson

Johnson Wins - Wyan-Pine Grove, Sublimity,

Keavy, Colony, Hunter Hills **Losses –** Cold Hill, Bush

Keavy Wins – Sublimity, Wyan-Pine Grove

Losses – Campground, London, Johnson, Cold Hill, Hazel Green London

Wins – Keavy, Hunter Hills, Colony

Losses - East Bernstadt, Bush, Sub-

SEE **ELEMENTARY**, PAGE **14B**



Ryan Davidson took a shot attempt during second-half action of Saturday's game against Lexington Catholic.

North Laurel drops second straight after falling to Lexington Catholic, 83-51

LEXINGTON — North Laurel entered the weekend ranked second in the state along with a perfect 19-0 mark, but left a defeated team, twice, by scores of 86-66 to Ashland Blazer on Friday, and 83-51 to No. 1 Lexington Catholic on Saturday, while getting running-clocked against the Knights.

The Jaguars (19-2) were a shell of them-

selves during both games.

The 3-pointers that were falling during their first 19 contests were rimming out, leading to their combined 8-of-31 shooting effort from behind the arc in both games. The Jaguars were outscored a combined 78-24 from 3-point range, including 33-15 against Lexington Catholic.

But the struggles didn't end there.

North Laurel combined to turn the ball over an uncharacteristic 30 times in both losses, leading to 51 points for their oppo-

"This was a tough two days for us," North Laurel coach Nate Valentine said. "We are playing programs that have been where we

SEE NORTH, PAGE 16B



North Laurel suffered its first loss of the season, an 86-66 setback, to Ashland Blazer on Friday.

Jaguars suffer first loss of the season, dropping 86-66 decision to Ashland Blazer

By Les Dixon

LEXINGTON — North Laurel took one on the chin Friday, leading to the No. 2 ranked Jaguars' first loss of the season.

North Laurel dug itself a 30-17 hole in the first quarter against hot-shooting Ashland Blazer, and never recovered, losing to the Tomcats, 86-

It didn't help matters that Ashland Blazer was red-hot from 3-point range.

The Tomcats hit 10-of-14 (71.4 percent) 3-point attempts in the first half to build a 46-27 half-time lead while finishing the game 15-of-26 (56.7 per-

cent) from behind the arc.

SEE JAGUARS, PAGE 15B

"We ran into a buzz saw tonight," North Laurel coach Nate Valentine said. "This was a great learning experience for our guys. I certainly don't like losing, but I wouldn't trade this opportunity. We need games like this to help us get ready for the postseason."

North Laurel (19-1) didn't have an answer for Ashland's Ethan Sellers, who finished with a game-high 37 points while hitting 7-of-10 shot attempts from 3-point range. The Tomcats finished the game hitting 32-of-61 shot attempts from the

The Jaguars struggled shooting the first quar-

HEAVYWEIGHT BATTLE



PHOTOS BY LES NICHOLSON

North Laurel's Brooke Nichelson applied defensive pressure on Corbin senior Shelby Stewart.

Lady Jaguars remain unbeaten against regional opponents with 80-72 victory over Corbin

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

CORBIN — Two 13th Region heavyweights battled to the end on Friday with Eddie Mahan's North Laurel Lady Jaguars surviving an 80-72 win over Corbin.

The region's ranked team led by double-digits in the second half but had to hold off a furious rally by the Lady Redhounds in the fourth quarter to get the eight-point vic-

North Laurel to 18-4 and proves record pushed its 13th Region teams to a perfect 8-0 while Corbin fell to 14-9 and 9-7 against regional opponents.

North Laurel's junior duo of Hailee Valentine and Emily Sizemore paced the way for the Lady Jaguars. Valentine scored a game-high 27 points while Sizemore added 19 points. Chloe McKnight finished with 15 points and Brooke Nichelson turned in an 11-point scoring effort.

Kallie Housley kept Corbin close with her 22-point scoring effort eighth-grader Raegan Walker followed with 18 points and Shelby Stewart tallied 14 points.

Corbin's Lauren Faulkner scores all five of her points in the first quarter to give the Lady Redhounds a 14-11 lead. McKnight added five points for North Laurel during the period while Valentine



North Laurel's Hailee Valentine attempted roll drive past Corbin's Raegan Walker. Valentine led all scorers with 27 points.

added four points.

The Lady Jaguars were able to claim a double-digit lead in the second quarter after outscoring the Lady Redhounds, 27-13.

Sizemore scored nine points while hitting a 3-pointer and Nichelson knocked down two 3-pointers during the period. Valentine added five points to push North Laurel's lead to 38-27 at halftime.

Housley's seven points in the third quarter combined with Stew-

art's two 3-pointers cut the Lady Jaguars' lead to 56-48 going into the fourth quarter. Valentine (10 points) and Sizemore (eight points) combined to score all of North Laurel's points in the third quarter.

The Lady Jaguars did just enough to hold on in the fourth quarter to pull off the eight-point win. Sizemore added eight points during the period while Valentine scored seven points.

Corbin's Walker was able to score nine points in the final eight minutes while Housley added seven points.

North Laurel Corbin 72 North Laurel 11 18 24 80

Corbin 14 13 21 24 72

North Laurel (80) — Valentine 27, Nichelson 11, E. Sizemore 19, C. McKnight 15, G. McKnight 4, McClure 4.

Corbin (72) — Stidham 4, Housley 22, Faulkner 6, Walker 18, B. Stewart 8, S. Stewart

From page 11B

quarter, scoring eight points. Rhys England buried two three-point shots, as the Cardinals led Wayne County, 46-

Both teams went back and forth in the fourth quarter, as the scoring began to slow down. Payne scored nine points in the third, but South Laurel struggled to score points in

the second half. The Cardinals cleared the bench in the fourth. Jeremy Steele scored five points, Tyson Young scored three, and Jacob Steele added two, as South Laurel cruised to the 75-44 win.

The Cardinals finished the regular season with a record of 16-5. They will return to action on Saturday, taking on Williamsburg in the first round of the 50th District Tournament.



Chris Souder's South Laurel Lady Cardinals dropped a 77-47 decision to Pikeville on Saturday.

Lady Cardinals take hard hit in 77-47 loss to Pikeville

By John Stepp Staff Writer

PIKEVILLE — The South Laurel Lady Cardinals had a tough outing on Friday night when they traveled to Pikeville to take on the Lady Panthers. South Laurel fell, 77-47, in one of their worst performances of the year.

In all 10 of their losses this season, the Lady Cardinals have shown major struggles on the offensive end of the court. The

47 points scored against Pikeville on Friday were one of South Laurel's lowest scoring outputs of the season.

Coach Chris Souder said he is concerned with his team's poor performance this close to the postseason. "This isn't the ideal time to

decide not to compete. Pikeville punched us early and often, and we never recovered," said Souder. "We are running out of time to figure this out." The loss is the third in their

last five games for South Laurel. Before that, they had won eight of their last nine. With just three games left in the regular season, Souder said his team needs to figure it out in a hurry to prepare for a postseason run. "Hopefully this time next

week, we can figure this out," said Souder. "We have to be tournament ready."

ROLLING INTO THE POSTSEASON



PHOTOS BY LES DIXON

Brooke Nichelson scored 17 points during North Laurel's 51-38 win over Jackson County on Monday.

Lady Jaguars knock off Jackson County, 51-38

BY LES DIXON

Staff Writer

LONDON Eddie Mahan's North Laurel Lady Jaguars have shown time after time this season they're able to deal with whatever curveball comes their way.

They managed to do it earlier this season, and again during Monday's regularseason finale with junior Hailee Valentine not able to suit up during the Lady Jaguars' matchup against Jackson County due to an injury.

North Laurel was able to persevere, though, picking up a 51-38 win over the Lady Generals.
"Hailee Valentine is a ter-

rific perimeter player and usually is a huge differencemaker against teams like Jackson who clog up the middle," Mahan said. "I believe she had 30 against them last time. So going into the game without her, I knew our team was going to have to rely on our kids to

did it terrifically. "Their persistence this season, always fighting

step up, and once again they

through adversity has really impressed me," he added. "It's no surprise that Emily Sizemore scored 17 and made so many right decisions tonight but when you see what eighth-graders like Brooke Nichelson, Bella Sizemore and Saige McClure did, you have to be

Nichelson and Emily Sizemore each scored 17 points apiece in the win while Chloe McKnight added seven points. Bella Sizemore and McClure each got into the scoring action, finishing with five points apiece. "The girls came out and

executed our game plan perfectly," Mahan said. "We did not shoot well but what our girls did today was exactly what I wanted from them. Even before Hailee Valentine's injury, I knew how I wanted to see my girls play this game against Jackson. We needed to be able to change our style and be able to still win when a game slows down.

"It's how you have to win some games in tourwould have won the game



teammate. Sizemore finished with 17 points during Monday's 49th District battle against Jackson County.

nament time and I thought our execution on offense and defense was stellar," he added. "If we had shot our normal percentages we

by a much larger margin."

The game was tight throughout with the Lady Jaguars surging to a 15-5

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ELEMENTARY

Continued from page 12B

limity, Campground

Sublimity

Wins - Wyan-Pine Grove, London, Hazel **Losses –** Keavy, Johnson, Bush, Cold Hill

Wyan-Pine Grove Wins -

Losses - Johnson, Sublimity, Keavy, Hunter

Hills, Colony, East Bernstadt, Campground Saturday, March 6 Bush 40, East Bernstadt 22 **Bush (40)** — C. Collett 16, N. Cupp 9, C. Elza

6, P. McPhetridge 1, C. Stewart 8. East Bernstadt (22) — M. Brown 6, R. Davidson 12, A. Napier 2, M. Lucas 2.

Keavy 16, Hazel Green 13

Hazel Green (13) — D. Barrett 9, B. Craft 4. **Keavy (16)** — L. Vorbeck 14, L. Joseph 2. Cold Hill 33, Sublimity 30

Cold Hill (33) — K. Smith 16, C. Cox 9, J. Hart 2, L. Webb 6

Sublimity (30) — K. Taylor 18, T. Johnson 2, B. Kuehne 6, J. Depew 2, B. Robinson 2.

Johnson 32, Hunter Hills 12

Hunter Hills (12) — Q. Strunk 4, Mal. Smith

4, Mi. Smith 2, M. Moses 2. **Johnson (32)** — R. Robbins 10, D. Good 9, T. Marcum 5, C. Larkey 4, H. Parsley 2, T. Dykes 2.

Wyan-Pine Grove 46, Campground 4 Wyan-Pine Grove (46) — T. Smith 24, B. Garland 2, M. Warren 8, K. Ellis 8, M. Kitzmiller 2,

Campground (4) — T. Eldridge 2, S. Gilbert

London 34, Colony 12

London (34) — L. Jackson 4, J. Phipps 9, J. Catching 6, M. Dotson 2, S. Allen 2, E. George 3, T. McQueen 2, N.ison 2, C. Craig 2, D. Wil-

Colony (12) — M. Jones 9, K. Patel 2, N. Vaughn 1.

Girls Scores

Bush 30, East Bernstadt 6

Bush (30) — B. Mahan 6, P. Kilburn 6, M. Napier 8, B. Brown 10. East Bernstadt (6) — L. Joyner 4, R. Joyner

Hazel Green 20, Keavy 18

Hazel Green (20) — P. Gilbert 12, K. Gilbert

4, H. Robinson 4. Keavy (18) — A. Lorman 10, S. Peterson 4, K. Scalf 4.

Cold Hill 34, Sublimity 9

Cold Hill (34) — C. Jones 10, M. Andes 19, J. Cheek 2, I. Lewis 2, K. Morgan 1. **Sublimity (9)** — B. Kilburn 7, M. Turner 2.

Johnson 24, Hunter Hills 11 Hunter Hills (11) — L. Smith 5, J. Sullivan 4,

Johnson (24) — Phillips 13, Philpot 8, Root

Campground 34, Wyan-Pine Grove 10

Wyan-Pine Grove (10) — B. Swafford 2, A. Martin 6, Mio Ideguchi 2 **Campground** (34) — K. Osborne 10, A. Hollin 16, J. Short 6, K. Wyan 2.

London 24, Colony 12 **London (24)** — L. Norman 1, B. Walker 4, S.

Smith 3, M. Holland 16. **Colony (12)** — B. Howard 3, A. Smith 4, E.

Thursday, March 4 **Boys Scores**

Johnson 40, Colony 7

Johnson (40) — D. Good 12, R. Robbins 6, H. Morgan 8, T. Dykes 2, C. Larkey 4, T. Marcum 6, H. Parsley 2.

Colony (7) — M. Jones 3, C. Hagan 2, N. Vaughn 2.

Bush 36, Sublimity 32

Sublimity (32) — B. Kuehne 16, K. Taylor 11, T. Johnson 1, B. Robinson 2, A. Gentry 2

Bush (36) — K. Allen 7, C. Collett 9, C. Elza 12, P. McPhetridge 6, C. Stewart 2.

London 35, Campground 6

London (35) — L. Jackson 5, J. Phipps 5, J. Catching 8, M. Dotson 2, S. Allen 8, E. George 2, T. McQueen 2, N. Ison 3.

Campground (6) — A. Mills 4, B. Baker 2.

Cold Hill 43, Keavy 6

Keavy (6) — L. Vorbeck 6

Cold Hill (43) — K. Smith 10, B. Cassidy 5, C.

Cox 4, J. Hart 4, L. Webb 2, J. Jones 3, C. Smith 2, B. Robinson 2, J. Hoskins 2, C. Miller 2, S. Orr

2, M. Hensley 2, C. Spencer 1, C. Campbell 2. **Hunter Hills 35, Hazel Green 8 Hunter Hills (35)** — Q. Strunk 8, B. Rupard 5, Mi. Smith 10, Ma. Smith 4, M. Moses 6, C.

Stradley 2. **Hazel Green (8)** — D. Barrett 4, B. Craft 4 **East Bernstadt 26, Wyan-Pine Grove 25**

East Berenstadt (26) — M. Brown 14, R. Davidson 10, A. Napier 2. Wyan-Pine Grove (25) — T. Smith 12, M.

Warren 7, Z. Patterson 6. **Girls Scores**

Johnson 34, Colony 4 Johnson (34) — L. Phillips 14, J. Philpot 12,

SEE SCORES, PAGE 15B

SCORES

Continued from page 14B

Colony (4) — E. Smith 2, C. Stopher

Bush 36, Sublimity 12 Sublimity (12) — A. Joseph 2, B. Kil-

burn 6, L. Collett 2, M. Turner 2. Bush (36) — B. Mahan 7, P. Kilburn 14, M. Napier 2, B. Brown 8, J. Gilbert 2, M. Thompson 3.

Campground 36, London 12 **London (12)** — M. Holland 8, S. Smith 2, M. Loy 2.

Campground (36) — K. Osborne 12, A. Hollin, J. Short 3, K. Wyan 2, P.

Cold Hill 42, Keavy 8

Keavy (8) — Powers 2, Peterson 6 **Cold Hill (42)** — C. Jones 14, M. Andes 12, J. Cheek 8, I. Lewis 6, M. Brock

Hunter Hills 19, Hazel Green 14 Hunter Hills (19) — L. Smith 4, L. French 4, J. Sullivan 3, O. Tibbs 3, St. John 3, T. Queen 2

Hazel Green (14) — K. Gilbert 4, H. Robinson 4, P. Gilbert 3, K. Whitehead 2, N. Runyon 1.

East Bernstadt 26, Wyan-Pine Grove 11

East Bernstadt (26) — L. Joyner 8, J. Oliver 6, R. Joyner 7, H. Radford 2, J. Green 4.Wyan-Pine Grove (11) — M. Ideguchi 2, S. Sizemore 2, R. Ballard 7.

Tuesday, March 2 **Boys Scores**

Wyan-Pine Grove 50, Colony 7 Colony (7) — M. Jones 1, C. Shepherd 2. N. Vaughn 4.

Wyan-Pine Grove (50) — T. Smith 16, M. Warren 16, Z. Patterson 2, K. Ellis 6. S. Reece 6. M. Kitzmiller 4.

London 37, Hunter Hills 16

London (37) — London: J. Phipps 23, J. Catching 7, I. Robinson 3, J. Mosley 3, S. Allen 1.

Hunter Hills (16) — Q. Strunk 9, B. Rupard 2, Mi. Moses 3, Ma. Moses 2. Bush 47, Cold Hill 36 Cold Hill (36) — K. Smith 6, B. Cas-

sidy 9, C. Cox 7, J. Hart 2, L. Webb 8, J. **Bush (47)** — K. Allen 4, C. Collett 25, C. Elza 10, P. McPhetridge 4

Johnson 49, Keavy 7 Keavy (7) — L. Vorbeck 5, E. Walters

Johnson (49) — D. Good 18, R. Robbins 8, H. Morgan 7, T. Dykes 4, T. Marcum 12. **Sublimity 46, Hazel Green 4**

Sublimity (46) — J. Depew 4, B. Kuehne 3, B. Boshers 4, K. Taylor 10, T. Johnson 6, B. Robinson 11, B. Couch 2, B. Middleton 4, A. Gentry 2.

Hazel Green (4) — D. Barrett 1, B.

East Bernstadt 42, Campground 9 East Bernstadt (42) — M. Brown 7, R. Davidson 16, B. Larkey 6, A. Greer 3, H. Gilbert 4, A. Napier 4, M. Lewis 2.

Campground (9) — T. Eldridge 2, J. Patterson 2, B. Baker 2, S. Gilbert 3 **Girls Scores**

Colony 14, Wyan-Pine Grove 5 Colony (14) — B. Howard 6, E. Smith 6, C. Stopher 2

Wyan-Pine Grove (5) — A. Collier 1, H. Sowders 1, A. Martin 2, B. Swafford

London 28, Hunter Hills 19 **London (28)** — M. Holland 21, L. Nor-

man 2, A. Harrison 2, M. Loy 3. Hunter Hills (19) —L. Smith 7, J. Sullivan 6, T. Queen 2, A. Bryant 2, I. St. John 2. Cold Hill 30, Bush 29

Cold Hill (30) — C. Jones 13, M. Andes 8, J. Cheek 7, I. Lewis 2 Bush (29) — B. Mahan 2, P. Kilburn

13, M. Napier 4, B. Brown 8, J. Gilbert Johnson 30, Keavy 14

Keavy (14) — Powers 4, Peterson 6, Lorman 4.

Johnson (30) — L. Phillips 11, J. Philpot 16, E. Root 3.

Sublimity 8, Hazel Green 6 Sublimity (8) — B. Kilburn 2, C. Stines 2, F. Brummett 4. **Hazel Green (6)** — H. Robinson 2, N.

Runyon 2, K. Whitehead 2 Campground 30, East Bernstadt 10 East Bernstadt (10) — L. Joyner 4, J.

Oliver 4, J. Barnett 1, R. Joyner 1 Campground (30) — K. Osborne 12, A. Hollin 16, K. Wyan 2.

JAGUARS

Continued from page 13B

ter but finished knocking down 56.8 percent (25-of-44) of their shots for the game. They even hit 71.4 percent (15-of-21) of their shot attempts in the second half but the damage had already been done. The key stat in the game was North Laurel's 3-of-12 effort from 3-point range. Ashland outscored the Jaguars, 45-9, from behind the arc.

North Laurel also committed 16 turnovers that led to 23 Tomcats' points.

Sophomore Reed Sheppard scored a team-high 34 points in the loss while finishing with five assists and four rebounds. Ryan Davidson finished with 12 points and nine rebounds. Ashland 86, North Laurel 66

North Laurel 17 10 22 17 66 Ashland 30 16 32 8 86 **North Laurel (66)** — Sheppard 34, Davidson 12, Bruner 2, Sizemore 7, Reyn-

olds 3, Elza 2, Brock 2, Messer 4. **Ashland (86)** — Carter 11, Porter 14,

Sellers 37, Villers 19, Gillum 3, Adkins 2.

North Laurel still sitting atop latest edition of Fear 'Les' 13th Region Boys Rankings

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

1. North Laurel (21-2 overall, 8-0 vs. 13th Region competition)

The Jaguars took two losses on the chin this past weekend against Ashland Blazer and Lexington Catholic but responded with two big wins over both Red Bird and Evangel Christian.

2. Harlan County (18-4, **5-3**)

three-game los-The ing skid midway through the season looks to be a blessing in disguise for the Black Bears. Harlan County has now won five in a row entering postseason play.

3. South Laurel (16-5, 11-3)

No one would have ever thought the Cardinals would have 16 wins at this point of the season after what the program is graduated the past two years. But here they are, 16-5, with two wins over Corbin, a win over Trinity and Knox Central to just name a few this season.

4. Corbin (12-6, 11-4)

The Redhounds remain the hottest team in the region with a nine-game win streak. Corbin has beaten Clay County, Knox Central (twice), Madison Southern, and Lynn Camp during the streak.

5. Knox Central (13-5, 7-3)

The two-time defending 13th Region champions struggled this past week, going 1-2 with losses to both Corbin and South Laurel. Senior Jevonte Turner turned in a fantastic week, scoring 48 points, 43 points, and 38 points, respectively.

6. Harlan (15-5, 6-2)

Green Dragons came away with the Pikeville Invitational championship this weekend by



PHOTO BY LES DIXON

Despite suffering two losses this past weekend, Nate Bruner and the North Laurel Jaguars still sit atop the 13th Region Fear "Les" Boys Hoops Rankings.

going 2-0. Jordan Akal continues to impress, scoring 20 and 42 points, respectively, in the two games.

7. Bell County (16-10,

The Bobcats are redhot, winners of four in a row and 11 of their last 13 games. The duo of Cameron Burnett and Dawson Woolum has almost been unstoppable.

8. Clay County (13-7,

The Tigers are 2-2 during their past four games but those losses were against some good teams — Harlan and Covington Catholic. Clay County has enough talent to win the Region tourney, the Tigers just need some consisten-

Injuries and sickness has slowed Barbourville down but the Tigers have won two of three with wins coming against Burgin and

10. Lynn Camp (11-11,

The talent is there but the consistency isn't just vet for the Wildcats. They have one of the best scorers in the region in Micah Engle while shot-blocker Gavin Allen recorded his 100th block of the season last week.

Lady Jaguars remain at No. 1 in the latest Fear 'Les' 13th Region Girls Hoops Rankings

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

1. North Laurel (20-4 overall, 9-0 against 13th Region competition)

The Lady Jaguars finished regular season play with a 51-38 win over Jackson County on Monday. Now all eyes shift to 49th District Tournament play along with the health of junior guard Hailee Valentine, who missed the Jackson County game due to an injury. She's expected to be back in action next week, and that will be a big boost for North Laurel.

2. Bell County (19-4, 14-3)

The Lady Bobcats got back to their winning ways this past week after losing at home to North Laurel.

Bell County defeated both Williamsburg and Leslie County and has now won two games in a row.

3. South Laurel (15-10, 8-3)

While most teams are playing easier schedules, Chris Souder's squad has been playing some of the best

teams in the mountains. The Lady Cardinals did suffer two setbacks but have also picked up wins over Shelby Valley, Danville, and Jackson County.

4. Corbin (14-10, 9-7)

The Lady Redhounds finished regular season play on Tuesday with a loss and will now shift their focus to Saturday's 50th District matchup against South Laurel. It's a shame both Corbin and South Laurel teams will be facing elimination this week.

5. Whitley County (15-9, 10-5)

The Lady Colonels are playing some good ball and are now focusing on the 50th District Tournament. Whitley County has to talent to make a run in postseason play. The Lady Colonels have a deep roster that can score at will.

6. Knox Central (11-5, 9-3)

The Lady Panthers finished regular season play with a 56-55 victory over Harlan County, but have suffered losses against both Bell County and Jackson County during the past

7. Pineville (13-4, 13-2)

The Lady Mountain Lions suffered an 82-72 setback to Whitley County but have reeled off two consecutive wins since. Keep an eye on Pineville.

cy and momentum going into postseason play. 9. Barbourville (11-11,

Emily Sizemore and the North Laurel Lady Jaguars are ranked No. 1 in the latest edition of the Fear 'Les' 13th Region Girls Hoops Rankings.

They have the talent to win the 51 District Tournament next week. 8. Jackson County (11-7, 11-7)

The Lady Generals had a chance to move up in the rankings this week but double-digit losses to both North Laurel and South Laurel dropped Jackson County in this week's rankings.

9. Clay County (12-7, 8-6)

The Lady Tigers are rolling. They've now won eight games in a row after defeating Middlesboro on Tuesday. Clay County isn't and could make a run at the 49th District Tour-10. Harlan County (8-11, 5-8)

Just when I thought the Black Bears had turned the corner, they've lost three of their last four games.

CARDS KEEP ROLLIN'



Micah Anders led South Laurel with 24 points during the Cardinals' win over Knox Central on Saturday.

South Laurel knocks off defending 13th Region champion Knox Central

By Les Dixon Staff Writer

LONDON — Jeff Davis South Laurel Cardinals continue to impress.

After garnering a No. 9 preseason regional ranking, the Cardinals have proven the prognosticators wrong time after time this season.

And now, you can add two-time defending 13th Region champion Knox Central to the list of teams South Laurel has beaten after the Cardinals handed the Panthers a 67-58 loss during Saturday's Raymond Reed Classic Presented by Grace Health.

After both scored 10 points apiece in the first quarter, South Laurel slowly to distance itself from Knox Central despite a 38-point scoring effort from senior Jevonte Turner.

Parker Payne scored nine points in the second quarter for the Cardinals while Micah Anders added six points and a 3-pointer, allowing South Laurel to take a 29-28 advantage into the locker room at halftime.

Anders hit three more 3-pointers in the third quarter while adding



Brayden Reed scored two of his 10 points during the fourth quarter of Saturday's game against Knox Central.

11 points to help South Laurel's lead grow to 47-40 with eight minutes re-

Knox Central cut its deficit to three points on a couple of occasions in the fourth quarter but Anders and Caden Jones each scored seven

points apiece during the

period as the Cardinals secured a nine-point vic-

Anders led South Laurel with 24 points while Payne added 16 points. Brayden Reed finished with 10 points, and

Jones added nine points. South Laurel 67, Knox Central 58

Knox Central 10 18 12

South Laurel 10 19 18

20 67 Knox Central (58) - Turner 38, Mills 14,

Chadwell 4, Turner 2. South Laurel (67) — Anders 24, England 6, Gover 2, Jones 9, Payne 16, Reed 10.

NORTH

From page 13B

want to be. We have to play more teams like this. It's all part of the process of building an elite program. Our guys were the last undefeated team left standing in the state. This will help us as we move into the tournament if we use it right."

North Laurel was able to hang with the Knights during the first six minutes of the first quarter. Sophomore Reed Sheppard scored four points out of the gate while a 3-pointer by Clay Sizemore and a basket by Ryan David-

9-6 advantage. The lead was shortlived, though.

son gave the Jaguars a

Two 3-pointers and eight points in the first quarter by Mr. Basketball candidate Ben Johnson allowed Lexington Catholic to close the period with a 14-2 run to take a 20-11 lead at the end of the first quarter.

North Laurel never got on track as the Knights built a 42-27 lead at halftime and outscored the Jaguars,



PHOTO BY LES NICHOLSON

North Laurel sophomore Reed Sheppard blocked a shot during Saturday's loss to top-ranked Lexington Catholic.

31-15, in the third quarter to take a commanding 73-42 advantage while putting the game away during the process.

Johnson led all scorers with 31 points while Lexington Catholic finished the game shooting 30-of-58 shooting from the floor, including an 11-of-25 effort from 3-point range. The Knights outrebounded the Jaguars, 36-27, and

forced them into 14 turnovers while only tallying seven turnovers themselves.

Sheppard led North Laurel with 18 points and 10 rebounds while Ryan Davidson finished with 12 points and four rebounds.

North Laurel finished the game hitting 16-of-49 shot attempts, including a 5-of-19 effort from 3-point range.

Lexington Catholic

83, North Laurel 51 **North Laurel** 11 16 15 9 51

Lexington Catholic 20 22 31 10 83

North Laurel (51) – Sheppard 18, Davidson 12, Brock 6, Keen 3, Elza 2, Reynolds 4,

Sizemore 6. Lexington Catholic (83) — McCrear 6, Gohmann 7, Simms 3, Russell 15, Busson 7, Sparks 8, Johnson 31, Potter 6.



PHOTO BY LES DIXON

Reed Sheppard finished off a two-handed dunk during North Laurel's win over Red Bird on Monday.

SKID

Continued from page 11B

never looked back Brock finished with 20 points while hitting 6-of-9 from 3-point range.

The Jaguars' lead grew to 65-11 by the time halftime rolled around before allowing the reserve players to put the finishing touches on the win during the second half while outscoring the Cardinals, 21-8, during the process. Ryan Davidson finished with 19 points and 10 rebounds while Reed Sheppard and Clay Sizemore each scored eight points apiece. Sheppard also finished with five rebounds, 13 assists, and two blocked shots.

North Laurel is off the remainder of the week and will prepare for next week's 49th District Tournament which will be played at Clay County High School.

North Laurel 86, Red Bird 19 7 4 4 4 19 **Red Bird North Laurel** 35 30 14 7 86

Red Bird (19) — Helton 1, Bynum 8, Osborne 3, Gray 6, Onosumda 1.

North Laurel (86) — Sheppard 8, Bruner 5, Sizemore 8, Davidson 19, Brock 20, Harris 5, Reynolds 4, Elza 5, Keen 2, Messer 4, Dotson 6.

CLASSIC

Continued from page 11B

four points apiece in the third quarter, helping the Lady Cardinals outscore Shelby Valley, 15-9, while increasing South Laurel to 41-31 during the

Chris Souder's squad was able to wrap-up the win in the fourth quarter by hitting 9-of-13 free throw attempts while Clem scores five points and Jones and Howard each scored four points

South Laurel 62, Shelby Valley 44 **South Laurel** 12 14 15 21 62 **Shelby Valley** 13 9 9 13 44

South Laurel (62) — Howard 4, Clem 13, Jones 8, E. Cox 9, Presley 14, Collins 8, Turner 2, Miller

Shelby Valley (44) — Elswick 13, Looney 8, L. Johnson 6, Mead 3, Z. Johnson 8, Owens 6.



PHOTO BY LES DIXON

North Laurel's Chloe McKnight scored seven points during Monday's 51-38 win over Jackson County.

ROLLING

Continued from page 14B

advantage in the first quarter before seeing Jackson

County cut its deficit to 22-17 at halftime. The Lady Generals outscored North Laurel, 13-13, in the third quarter and found themselves only trailing 34-30 before the Lady Jaguars sealed the deal with a

17-8 run in the game's final eight minutes. "With Knox Central canceling Thursday's game, we have to start to turn our focus onto the district tourna-

ment," Mahan said. "While I am continuing to look for someone to play us this week, I know the chances of that is unlikely, so our practices are going to have to be hard and purposeful. "This team has had goals set for this time of year and they are focused on achiev-North Laurel 51, Jackson County 38

5 12 13 8 38 15 7 12 17 51 **Jackson County** North Laurel **Jackson County (38)** — Carl 3, Lakes 11, Shannon

5, Rose 3, Ward 11, Truett 1, Creech 4. **North Laurel (51)** — Nichelson 17, E. Sizemore

17, McKnight 7, McClure 5, B. Sizemore 5.

CHALLENGE

Continued from page 7B

The Lady Panthers shot 28-of-69 from the loor and finished with 42 rebounds.

Prediction: Knox Central 77, Barbourville 41

No. 2 Pineville vs. No. 3 Lynn Camp

Pineville was able to pull off a 66-33 win over the Lady Wildcats during their one and only meeting. The Lady Mountain Lions limited Lynn Camp to 27.9 percent shooting (12-of-43) from the floor. Abby Mabe led the Lady Wildcats with

nine points while Natalie Fanella finished with eight points. Whitney Caldwell turned in a 27-point,

right-rebound effort for Pineville while Raigan King added 14 points and 10 rebounds. The Lady Mountain Lions shot 23-of-53

from the floor and only 1-of-5 from 3-point range. They also struggled from the charity stripe, hitting on only 19-of-33 attempts.

Prediction: Pineville 69, Lynn Camp 43

51st District Girls Finals **Prediction Knox Central 62, Pineville 58**

The Lady Panthers handed Pineville a 60-55 loss during their only meeting, and I expect this matchup to be another close one

as well.

The key to both team's success will be guard play and post play. This is a toss-up game to be honest, and I'm gonna give Knox Central the slightest edge in this matchup.



51ST DISTRICT GIRLS TOURNAMENT BRACKET

At Barbourville

Monday, March 15 Semifinals Knox Central at Barbourville, 6 p.m. Lynn Camp vs. Pineville, 8 p.m.

Thursday, March 18

Finals TBD, 7 p.m.

FEAR 'LES' 51ST DISTRICT GIRLS PLAYERS RANKINGS

1. Whitney Caldwell, Pineville 2. Caylan Mills, Knox Central 3. Řaigan King, Pineville 4. Presley Partin, Knox Central 5. Brittany Gallegher, Knox Central



Wishing Good Luck to All Teams in the District Tournament!

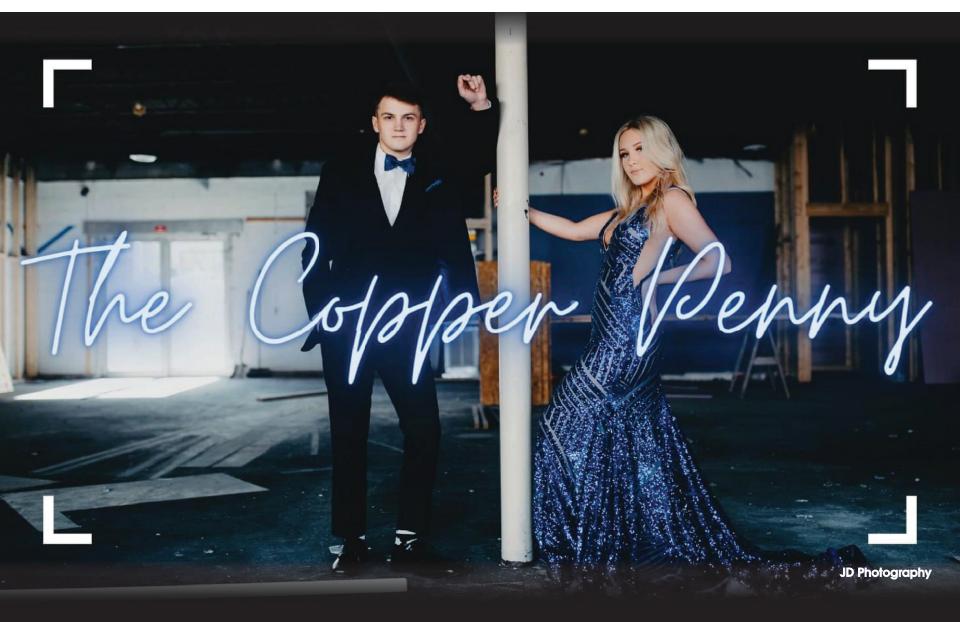
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