

# Fillies soccer team takes a win in first round of district tournament play

**BY DEVON WILLIAMS**  
NEWS REPORTER

Harrison County High School soccer has seen a lot of struggle of late. The 2025-26 season has been an uphill battle for the boys and girls alike.

They've faced similar trials: rebuilding after loss of seniors, roster rotation, injury and wounded pride.

Funny enough, both the Breds and Fillies soccer teams finished the regular season with the same record: 6-9.

But where they've faced similar challenges and had similar come-ups, the programs have been in very different positions.

Where the Breds have been in shadow looking to return to form, the Fillies program has been consistently solid for quite some time under the fine coaching

of Kevin Gaunce. Coach Gaunce has shown that he can make something out of nothing (or at least very little).

Just last season, despite a slow start, the Fillies found some heat and galloped their way to a winning season and ultimately winning the district tournament against rival Pendleton County.

And whereas the Breds have the same record to end the season and can find some optimism there (given their recent past), it has to be more difficult for the Fillies to see the season as a success.

Going into the last game of the regular season, the Fillies were on a losing streak of 0-3-1, tying with Frankfort at the end of September. So there's something to be said for the Fillies ending on a high note as they trampled Western Hills 7-0.

On Monday, Oct 6, Harrison County continued to

duke it out and secured a win in the first round of the 38th Girls District Soccer Tournament. They defeated neighbor Pendleton County 3-1, sweeping them for the season.

"We scored our first goal about five minutes in with senior Keylee Custard winning a ball in the middle, playing it wide to sophomore winger, Sophia Moore, who made a one touch early cross behind the defense and found senior striker Addie Perraut who with poise engaged the goalie and gently tapped it to a post for score," explained Gaunce.

"The second goal came about seven minutes later when Pendleton had a hand ball that awarded us a free kick about 38 yards from goal. Custard hit an incredible shot that went over the keeper and straight to the back of the net.

"The final goal came toward the end of the half when Custard played a ball over the top of the defense that Perraut got a great jump and good read on and again nestled on the ground to post for a great goal.

"Our defensive three of freshman Kaylee Bradford, senior Embry Marshall, junior Brinkley Wiggins held their offense in check only allowing one goal. Greenlee Maners has been great in goal all season. Hopefully we can carry that into the district finals and region."

With their backs to the wall, the Fillies showed fight and kept their season alive.

"We ended the season on a positive note, getting the tie against Frankfort and the convincing win over Western Hills," noted Gaunce. "Adding the win last night in the first round of districts is always exciting and adds to the

confidence the players are gaining. The players have been working hard all year to hopefully be the best versions of themselves this time of the year.

"Practices now are more functional. We start working on specific positional situations and what those positions can do to add to what we want to do and take away what opponents want to do. Start implementing game plans, add passing patterns to our practices, we have added in a few corner kick plays over the last couple weeks and we end every practice with penalty kicks."

Facing Mason County next, practice and mindset are key now that it's win or go home.

"Mason County is a quality opponent," stressed Gaunce. "We will approach the finals the way we have games all year. We will have a plan going in on what we feel like

we want/need to do and focus on our execution. Most games come down to four or five plays. If we make them we should be able to get a win."

No matter what happens against Mason County and despite the losing record, Gaunce has been pleased with the progress made by the girls.

"As mentioned we have played better the second half of the season," he stated. "We had a couple of close losses, but our quality of play has steadily approved along the way. We have some underclassman stepping up, figuring things out, giving us quality minutes, and our older players have settled in and playing their best soccer of the year. The last two games including the last regular season win was a culmination of all the work players have put in all year."

## Breds soccer team finishes regular season 6-9

**BY DEVON WILLIAMS**  
NEWS REPORTER

It's been a trying fall season for Harrison County sports. Difficulties have fallen on most every fall sport for the Breds and Fillies, most of whom have been in rebuilding mode.

There have been injuries, blowout losses, disappointing mistakes and missed opportunities. This is common to every sports organization and any fan will endure these trials at some point.

But there have been glimmers of hope too, and this has been particularly evident with the boys' soccer team.

Harrison County got a new coach this year, Ben Anness, but he was not new to the program. Coach Anness saw plenty of time on the Harrison County soccer field as a Bred himself, playing in much brighter times for the program. Now, years later and on the sideline, he's helping bring that light back.

"Overall I feel that we had

a decent season," explained Anness. "Between the players getting used to me and me learning what each player can and can't do it took us some time to figure some things out, but we have definitely became better as a team throughout the season."

The Breds finish the regular season with a 6-9 record. Just last year, the Breds were 3-12-1. Coach Anness has helped the boys to double their wins and etch away at their losses.

In the last two games of the regular schedule, Harrison County went 1 and 1. On Thursday, Sept 25, the Breds fell hard to Frankfort losing 6-0.

On Saturday, Sept 27, they would score another impressive win, this time away against Fleming County with a final score of 5-2.

As time went on, Coach Anness saw the boys find their groove and improve as players of the beautiful game.

"I did see a lot of improvement from almost

every player," assured Anness. "Whether it was their ability on the ball or overall soccer IQ."

The regular season is over and the program has begun to right the ship ... but there's still soccer to be played yet.

"The season isn't over yet with districts starting on Oct. 7," Anness said. "The main thing was that even if we were three games behind a .500 record we accomplished a lot as far as becoming a better team from where we started the season off."

"Hopefully the next step is to win districts and then play well in regions. As far as next year if given the chance I plan on coming back as of right now. It will be tough to replace the skill we will be losing at the end of this season right away. I do believe that the underclassmen have improved and learned enough to have a good season next year. The main thing is keeping the teamwork and chemistry we started to build this season."

## Fillies volleyball team falls to Nicholas County

**BY DEVON WILLIAMS**  
NEWS REPORTER

The beginning of "spooky season" has been spooky indeed for the Harrison County High School volleyball team.

After a good win against Robertson County at the end of September, the Fillies have gone 1-2 against some quality teams and unfortunately tasted defeat for the first time in program history against Nicholas County.

The Fillies travelled to face juggernaut George Rogers Clark (GRC) on Tuesday, Sept 30., and went home with a 3-0 loss (12-25, 10-25 and 15-25).

"GRC is a great team, I think they have a chance to win the region," noted Fillies head coach Bill Faulkner. "It's between them and Scott. I was surprised we beat them last season. I think probably on another given night we would have been more competitive. We didn't play our best volleyball, but they were really very good. They're the better team, just being honest. It was hard to stop them. But we had a nice practice after and went out and got a win after."

On Thursday, Oct 2, the Fillies again hit the road, this time to Villa Madonna Academy. Harrison County came home with a 2-0 victory (27-25 and 25-16).

"We beat Villa Madonna which was a nice win for us," remarked Faulkner. "They don't have a lot of size which kind of hurt them, but it was a nice win. They beat us last year. It was a good win on the road."

On Monday, Oct 6, history was made on the Fillies' third straight away game. They played Nicholas County in what would turn into an all-time classic.

It's been a great season for Nicholas County, who currently sit 15-5 under coaches Kim Denkins and Penny Bretz.

The Fillies would lose a nail-biter 3-2 (25-22, 21-25, 25-27, 25-23 and 10-15).

According to Coach Faulkner, this is the first time in program history that the Fillies have fallen to Nicholas County.

"With Nicholas, we should have or could have won the second and third sets because we were ahead in both,"

explained Coach Faulkner. "But we made mistakes at the end of both and they took advantage of both of them. They were ahead in the fourth and we came back to send it to a fifth. We just got behind in the fifth early and could come back."

"This is the first time we've lost to them ... this is probably the best team I've seen from them. They've never beaten us before until last night. Robertson is the only team left that hasn't beaten us."

Next on the docket for the Fillies is a Tuesday, Oct 7 matchup with St. Patrick, who Coach Faulkner says is in a similar situation to our own as far as rebuilding goes. They too lost a hefty amount of seniors.

With only a few games left in the regular season, eyes are on the district tournament.

"I'm trying to get ready for district," noted Faulkner.

"I'd like to win the next four if possible, but I'm looking for a little revenge. If things go according to script, we'll probably play Nicholas in the final. If we do play then again, I'm looking forward to that. If it happens, that's what we're looking forward to — the possibility to play them again, play better and seek a little revenge."

"For the most part, I'm happy with where we are. I think some of our consistency isn't there but we're a whole lot better than we were at the beginning of the season. There's two or three girls who are playing in a different spot and are doing well. I'd like to see that consistency, but that said, I feel like we're much better and the kids are enjoying it more. It's nice to get on a win streak like we just did. Last night was a bump in the road, but hopefully tonight we'll take advantage."

## Something to crow about

**BY NANCY KENNEDY**  
GRACE NOTES

One of my favorite YouTube videos shows a crow in Russia figuring out how to sled down a snowy rooftop on a jar lid.

The bird places the lid on top of the roof, stands on it and slides down the slope—and then does it again!

It picks the lid up with its beak and this time carries it to the top of another section of the roof.

However, that doesn't work as well, so it goes back to the original spot and slides down.

It tries a fourth time, but can't get the jar lid to stay and flies away.

Also in the video, you hear the young voices of the kids who are recording the crow's antics, laughing and chattering in their foreign language.

Sometimes when I feel overwhelmed at the speed of insanity in the world, I watch videos of animals doing genius things.

Yesterday, I watched a chimpanzee in a zoo using a broom to sweep its living space. It even dipped it in a bucket of water and used the broom bristles to scrub a spot on the ground.

Another video showed a monkey named Eli brushing his teeth and another monkey putting money in a vending machine and buying a bottle of juice.

But my favorite is the

sledding crow. It wasn't simply mimicking human behavior. It was thinking—and not about survival. It was thinking about having fun.

Every once in a while we get a glimpse of creation as it was meant to be—joyous and creative.

Amid the fires and floods, monster storms and the sheer violence of natural catastrophes and constant, senseless killings, God sometimes brings us back to Eden and shows us how things once were and will be once again someday.

I think God gets a huge kick out of watching birds figure out how to have fun with a jar lid after a snowstorm.

But I think he gets a bigger kick out of watching kids in Russia discovering a sledding crow, capturing it on video, putting it on YouTube and then having someone in Florida find it on a day she needed to see it to be reminded that God sees and hears and cares.

For most of us, life has moments, even seasons, of difficulty. It's easy to think that God doesn't care.

But Jesus said that God cares even about sparrows.

"What is the price of five sparrows? A couple of pennies? Not much more than that," Jesus said. "Yet God does not forget a single one of them. And he knows the number of hairs on your head! Never fear, you are far more

valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows (Luke 12:6-7)."

If he cares enough to let a crow in Russia have a ski vacation, how much more will he stoop from heaven to meet our needs? More than that—how much more will he find ways to show us his kindness and give us glimpses of the coming new creation?

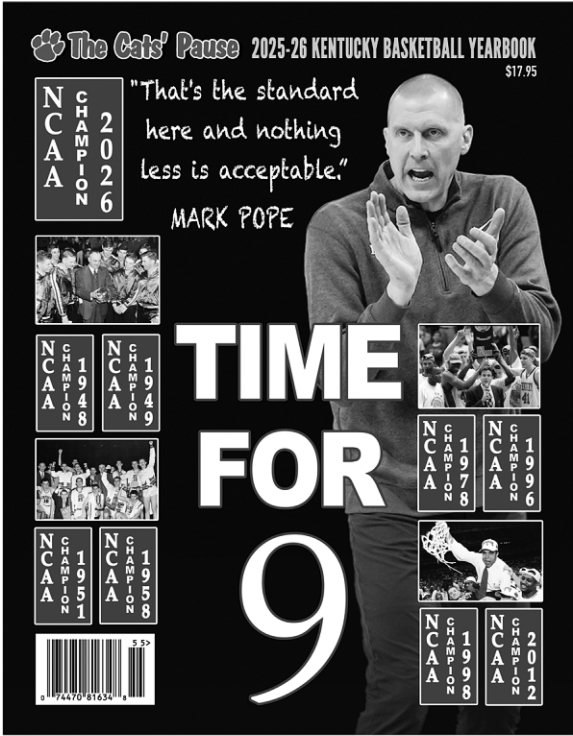
His grace is sufficient, his mercy is great. And his delight is a healing balm as we wait with all creation, longing for the day of restoration when he makes all things new.

Maybe he'll even give us a chance to sled with the crows.

View the video on YouTube at: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn00JcneVUG](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hn00JcneVUG).

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