

KITTENS

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significant move for her, but one she did for the sake of her team.

“It was a really big step up,” Troxler said. “I’ve been lifting weights, a lot of work with coach (Michael) Lynch on the inside, shooting, all of it. But it’s the team that has that confidence in me... I’m willing to do whatever they need me to do in the moment.”

“The girls know she’s willing to do anything,” Davis added. “They’ve got all the trust in the world in her. They know what she does, and they even encourage her even more, hey, score the basketball kind of stuff. Just the maturity for her from freshman year to junior year, she’s just grown tremendously. You couldn’t ask for a better kid.”

Davis credits Troxler’s development as a player to the work she’s put in.

“The way that she plays is the way that she practices,” Davis said. “She does those same things in practice. So that’s why it reflects when it comes out here. We’re looking for big things out of her next year. She’s got to step into a different role next year. It’s got to be consistent. Our goal for her next year is to average a double-double.”

Davis also believes that Troxler is willing to do a job regardless of the accolades that may or may not come with it.

“A lot of things she does might not even show up on a stat sheet,” Davis said. “It might be a blocked shot. It might be a tip-out for a rebound. It might be a deflection leading to a steal. There are games like last Thursday night where she came out and knocked down some big 3s, but on a given night, she’s going to do what you ask her to do, no matter what.”

Troxler might need all the things Davis mentioned and more as the Kittens gear up for a first-round matchup against Simon Kenton at the state tournament.

The Pioneers, winners of the Eighth Region,

are currently the No. 1 team in Kentucky, according to RPI data.

Ashland will have to find a way to contend with Simon Kenton’s potent defense, which has held teams to an average of 38 points this year, with only two Kentucky teams posting more than 50 against the Pioneers.

While the Kittens will be led by a stellar trio of scorers in Gabby Karle (14.8 points per game), Brookelyn Duckwyler (13.1 ppg), and Aryanna Gulley (11.3 ppg), Troxler said that playing with seniors like Karle and Gulley helps bring out the best in the team.

“They’re a great group of seniors,” Troxler said. “They’re all very vocal and leading, but they make it fun. I feel like we just have to come into (State) knowing that we have to keep our heads up and no matter what the score is, we have to continue to play defense, continue to push the ball, and all of it.”

While Simon Kenton, who hasn’t lost to a Kentucky team all season, enters as the No. 1 team on paper, Ashland is ranked just a few spots below at seventh in RPI.

Davis looks at the matchup as one where the Kittens will need to be methodical but also open to creating a little chaos to control the flow of the contest.

“They’re very good at all levels from one to five,” Davis said. “Very well-coached team. So we just have to stay disciplined on defense. But at the same time, we got to make it a little ugly. The tempo is big for us. They like to get up and down the floor, too, so it could be a horse race.”

Troxler knows the potential win will center around sound defense.

“Definitely our defensive energy and just pushing the ball on the fast break,” Troxler said. “That is what we can lean on and depend on going into Rupp to try to get the job done.”

Ashland (26-5) and Simon Kenton (30-2) meet today at 1:30 p.m. at Rupp Arena.

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JOHN FLAVELL | FOR THE DAILY INDEPENDENT
Ashland's Alexis Troxler drives for a shot against the Russell defense Friday during the 16th Region Tournament final in Morehead.

A matter of pride for Lions

MOREHEAD
When the buzzer sounded Tuesday and Boyd County hoisted the trophy, declaring it 16th Region champions, it was clear that hard work pays off.

Every player in a Lions uniform helped build a season that will culminate at Rupp Arena in the state tournament following the 59-49 win over Ashland.

“It’s a collective deal, for sure,” Boyd County coach Randy Anderson said. “We have a great group of young kids who



WILLIAM ADAMS

work hard every day and push these starters in practice. I think it starts with leadership. J-Spur and E (Jacob Spurlock and Ethan Rardon), they let their guard down, welcomed in new guys and young guys, and said, ‘Hey, we’re your buddy, let’s go battle together.’”

But much like Rome wasn’t built in a day, the Boyd County program wasn’t built this season.

Eight years separated the likes of Jacob Spurlock and Ethan Rardon from previous Lions Gunner Short, Reese Robinson, and Blake Stewart celebrating on the court at Ellis T. Johnson Arena.

During that time, Boyd County watched its heated rival rack up seven straight region crowns, with the last four coming at the expense of the Lions in the finals.

But every player that passed through the program during that time contributed to the foundation that these Lions now stand on. It’s the culmination of work from a whole pride of Lions.

“Everything those former players did, they should feel like they are going to Rupp Arena as well, because it started back in 2011,” Anderson said. “It’s hard to believe I’ve been blessed to be at Boyd County for 16 years. Of all the kids who came through with this goal in mind, only two groups have made it. Winning a region is hard. I really feel for our last two groups, because they were great kids and a great team,” Anderson added. “No excuses, but we got hit by the injury bug. I know those former players feel a sense of pride in this because they are always in these guys’ ears.”

Seniors Spurlock and Rardon have been there for all the ups and downs over the past several



PHOTOS BY JOHN FLAVELL | FOR THE DAILY INDEPENDENT
Boyd County coach Randy Anderson holds the trophy and celebrates with tournament MVP Jacob Spurlock after the 16th Region championship game Tuesday.

years.

“As soon as the buzzer went off, all I thought about was the past four years,” Spurlock said. “Especially last year, I got taken out early and just sat on the side and watched our guys lose. That lit a fire in me to really work hard over the year, to make sure we got to this game and made sure we won it.”

The last time the Lions wore the crown, it was also against Ashland, a game in which Boyd County held the Tomcats to just 49 points.

Rardon said that after the stumbling points over the last few years, getting the win is an incredible feeling, but getting some payback on a district foe makes it even better.

“Our coaches say this is an experience we’ll never forget and something you’ll never feel again,” Rardon said. “I can’t even put into words how awesome it is because to experience this with all my best friends is just incredible. It’s no secret we went through some adversity. Ashland had our number here for a little bit. That makes it all much better and all much sweeter to know that with all the hard work we put in, we made it. We made it. It’s awesome.”

For Spurlock, this win was as much for his former teammates as it was for his current ones.

“I saw Griff (Taylor), Cole (Hicks), Rhett (Holbrook) all in the stands tonight,” Spurlock said. “I came up short with them; they saw all of the bad side. I wanted to win this one for them. They worked hard with me ever since I was a kid. Those are my childhood best friends. They came up after and were just as excited as I was to win this.”

Both seniors view the moments when they came up short as lessons learned.

on the defensive end this year.”

The lesson for Rardon was to keep grinding after shorter shortcomings.

“You learn to work harder and get back into the gym,” Rardon said. “That’s the main thing. But second, I think tournament-time basketball is all about the little things. It’s rebounding, it’s rotating to the next guy. It’s those little intangibles you pick up that win games during March, and that’s what we did today.”

And the work for Boyd County isn’t done yet. The team hopes to make some noise at the Sweet Sixteen.

But even after that, Spurlock knows the program will continue to work toward future success, and he hopes he can affect those who will follow.

“When I was in eighth grade, a senior told me it flies by,” Spurlock said. “I tell these young guys the same thing. It flies by before you even realize it. I just tell them to keep working hard. Don’t listen to the outside noise. It doesn’t matter what everyone else is saying; it’s you versus you. I’m just trying to mentor them in the right direction and show them what it takes to get to that next level.”

Reach **WILLIAM ADAMS** at wadams@dailyindependent.com or (606) 326-2671.



Boyd County's Ethan Rardon defends a shot attempt by Ashland's Alijah Owens Tuesday during the 16th Region championship game.

PUBLIC NOTICE

**BOYD CIRCUIT COURT
CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-CI-00838**

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC

PLAINTIFF,

vs.

ADVERTISEMENT

**SHEILA K. WORKMAN,
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF SHEILA K. WORKMAN,
COUNTY OF BOYD, KENTUCKY,**

DEFENDANTS.

Pursuant to Order to Reschedule Sale entered on February 9, 2026, I shall sell the property described herein below at public auction in the lobby inside the front door of the old Boyd County Courthouse, Catlettsburg, Kentucky, on **Friday, March 20, 2026, at 11:15 a.m.**, to highest bidder on the following terms:

Full purchase price will be due at time of sale, payable by personal, business or official check. We do not accept cash. **IF the Master Commissioner has pre-approved the surety and collateral for a bidder's bond**, a down payment of ten-percent (10%) of the purchase price will be due at time of sale, and the unpaid balance with interest at the rate of **4.1250% per annum** will be due within thirty (30) days from the date of sale. Address of Property: 714 Newsome Street, Ashland (For Legal Description, see LSOT: Deed Book 813, Page 15, Boyd County Clerk's Office)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 022-06-20-003.00

NOTE - Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

/s/ Kenneth Williams, Jr.
**KENNETH WILLIAMS, JR. BOYD
CIRCUIT COURT MASTER
COMMISSIONER**
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Please visit our website:

www.boydcountymastercommissioner.com
Published: February 28 and March 12, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGESHIP
EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY AT LEXINGTON**

The Sixth Circuit Judicial Council received applications from people interested in appointment to the bankruptcy judge position. A Merit Selection Panel considered all applications received and recommended the following candidates: Adam M. Back, Katherine A. (Katie) Bell Dames, Ellen Arvin Kennedy, Megan R. Seliber, and David J. Treacy.

Full public notice is available at www.ca6.uscourts.gov. **Any person may now submit written comments for consideration by the Judicial Council and the Court of Appeals. Public comments must be received by March 30, 2026.** Please contact Marc Theriault, Circuit Executive, (513) 564-7200 for further information.
Published: March 12 & 14, 2026