

SPORTS

8A Wednesday, January 28, 2026

HARLANENTERPRISE.NET

HC overcomes Knott Central

By JOHN HENSON
Managing Editor

Even with the visiting Knott Central Patriots, the 14th Region's top-ranked team in the RPI ratings, shooting 76 percent through the first three quarters Tuesday, Harlan County managed to stay within a point.

The Black Bears made the defensive stops when it counted most, limiting the Patriots to only three-of-nine shooting in the decisive fourth quarter to rally for a 62-58 victory in a slow-paced game that saw great shooting on both sides.

Harlan County shot 62 percent for the game compared to 63 percent for the Patriots, who also connected on nine of 13 3-pointers for 69 percent. The game featured only 25 rebounds between the two teams with so few missed shots.

"They shot the ball really well. They are very experienced with five senior starters. The thing I'm most proud of is the last two games (a win at Leslie County on Monday) is we've played extremely hard and let our play do the talking and not fussing at other kids on the floor or about calls. We played our game the last two games and our attitude has been a lot better. I'm proud of them for that," Harlan County coach Kyle Jones said.

"We probably should have done it earlier, but we started face guarding (Connor Napier) No. 24 in the fourth quarter. He is such a good shooter. I thought

that was big. We had Reggie (Cottrell) on him later in the game."

Napier hit five of seven 3-pointers and finished with 20 points to lead the 12-6 Patriots. Chance Amurgey added 12 points.

Senior guard Reggie Cottrell led the 11-6 Bears with 24 points. Junior guard Trent Cole added 19 points, including six of six at the line over the last 98 seconds and eight of eight for the game.

Jones also liked the way his team adjusted to the deliberate pace of the game.

"I have a lot of respect for (Knott) coach (Jeff) Honeycutt, and his teams make you play at his pace," Jones said. "We want to play up and down, but tonight we won in a different way, and it's good to be able to do that."

Sophomore center Tucker Curtis provided a lift off the bench as he had two baskets sandwiched around a 3 from Cottrell in an 8-0 run that put the Bears ahead to stay. Curtis also added three blocked shots in the decisive run.

Knott tough back to within one on a basket by Napier with 2:20 left, but Cole hit six straight free throws and Cottrell added two as the Bears were able to hang on for the win.

Harlan County returns to action Friday at home against Middlesboro.

**HARLAN COUNTY 62,
KNOTT CENTRAL 58
KNOTT CENTRAL (12-6)**



Trent Cole scored 19 points, including hitting eight of eight at the free throw line in the fourth quarter, as Harlan County held off visiting Knott Central 62-58 on Tuesday.

Chance Amburgey 4-5 3-4 12, Connor Napier 7-10 1-1 20, Jaden Hall 3-4 0-0 6, Gavin Mosley 2-4 0-0 6, Michael Gibson 1-3 1-2 3, Shane Gibson 2-3 0-0 4, Drew Little 2-5 0-0 4, Peyson Dials 1-1 0-0 2. Totals: 22-35 5-7 58.

HARLAN COUNTY (11-6)

Trent Cole 5-11 8-8 19, Kaden Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Brady Smith 1-3 0-0 2, Reggie Cottrell 9-14 4-4 24, Brennan Blevins 4-4 0-2 9,

Landon Brock 1-4 0-0 2, Tucker Curtis 3-3 0-0 6, Hayden Grace 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 23-38 12-14 62.

Knott Central 17 14 15 12 – 58

Harlan County 17 16 12 17 –

62

3-point goals: Knott Central

9-13 (Napier 5-7, Mosley 2-3,

Amburgey 1-1, Little 1-2),

Harlan County 4-14 (Cottrell 2-

4, Blevins 1-1, Cole 1-6, Smith

0-1, Jones 0-2). Rebounds: Knott

See HC, 9A

Lady Bears rally to knock off top team

By JOHN HENSON
Managing Editor

It's becoming clearer each game that the Harlan County Lady Bears are growing up, even if it's a slow process. The Lady Bears claimed perhaps their biggest win of the season Tuesday with a 56-47 victory over visiting Leslie County, the 14th Region's No. 1 team, according to the RPI ratings used by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

The Lady Bears trailed by nine midway through the third quarter, then cut it to four going into the fourth quarter. Freshman point guard Jaycee Simpson hit 3-pointers on the first three possessions of the fourth quarter to put the Lady Bears on top for good.

"Simpson hit three big shots and we fed off that," Harlan County coach Gary Greer said. "It's amazing what happens when you hit shots. You start moving faster and going after balls harder. I'm proud of the them. We get down 10 last year we fold. This is a really big win to beat a solid team."

Simpson scored 20 points to lead the 8-7 Lady Bears, but several others played big roles in the win. Eighth grader Taylynn Napier had a basket and four straight free throws to help put the game away. Sophomore guard Kylee Runions had the biggest basket of the night when she drove baseline for a layup on an out-of-bounds play with HC

See LADY, 9A

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PUBLIC NOTICE

lease. Reclamation work performed includes backfilling, grading, seeding, and mulching that was completed during the fall of 2025.

This is the final advertisement of the application. Written comments, objections, and requests for public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement, Second Floor, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6571 by Friday, February 27, 2026.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Monday, March 02, 2026 at 9:00 a. m. at the Department for Natural Resources Middlesboro Regional Office, 1804 East Cumberland Avenue, Middlesboro, Kentucky 40965-1229. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for a hearing or informal conference is received by Friday, February 27, 2026.

Harlan Enterprise: Jan. 28, 2026
848-5637/FINAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Harlan Enterprise: Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4, 2026
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NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE PERMIT NUMBER 848-5637

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.093, notice is hereby given that Cardinal Reclamation Company, LLC., 101 Market Street, P. O. Box 305, Cadiz, Ohio 43907, has applied for Phase I bond release on Increment Numbers 1 and 3 on Permit Number 848-5637, which was last issued on June 04, 2025. The application covers an area of approximately 44.10 surface acres and 1,379 underground acres for a total of 1,423.10 acres in Harlan and Leslie counties. The operation is located approximately 0.20 miles south of Sayler in Leslie and Harlan Counties. The operation is located approximately 0.50 miles north from Ky Route 1780's junction with Ky Route 221 and located on Long Fork. The operation is located on the Helton and Wallins Creek U.S.G.S. 7 1/2-minute quadrangle maps. For Increment Number 1, approximately sixty (60%) percent of the original bond amount of \$93,700 is included in the application for release. For Increment Number 3, approximately sixty (60%) percent of the original bond amount of \$85,700 is included in the application for release.

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