

Bullitt East runs tight rotation on tight schedule

MIKE FARNER
SPORTS EDITOR

MOUNT WASHINGTON – Playing games on back-to-back days is a chore this season for the Bullitt East Chargers as head coach Jason Couch has been using a ‘tight’ seven player rotation.

‘Tight’ in that statement meaning the five starters are doing most of the work. Each of the five starters is averaging over seven points a game. Nobody off the bench is averaging more than 3.8 points a game and only one of those players, senior Brendan Puffer, has seen action in all 13 games.

So, imagine how tough it was for the Chargers to play two games in one day. That was the situation last Tuesday as Bullitt East played both the semifinal game and the championship game at the East Jessamine Holiday Basketball Tournament just a few hours apart.

Bullitt East opened play on Monday with an 81-77 victory over Western Hills. The team was then back on the court late on Tuesday morning to battle Greenup County and the Chargers battled to the end to record the 58-54 victory.

That put the team back on the court a game later for the championship tilt. The tank was just too low for the red and gold as they lost to Russell County 66-61.

The three games in 24 hours was not a surprise to Bullitt East head coach Jason Couch. He was aware of the schedule when he signed up. East Jessamine did not want teams and fans traveling on New Years’ Eve. That is just the way the schedule worked out this season.

Still, it was a good showing for the Chargers following two losses (in two days) a week earlier in a ‘showcase’ event at Somerset High School.

After a win on Saturday over Madisonville-North Hopkins at Grayson County in the New Years’ Classic, Bullitt East entered this week with a 7-7 record. No stats were available for that game.

Unfortunately, the Chargers and Bullitt Central were the first two teams left out of this year’s Boys’ Louisville Invitational Tournament. The top 16 teams in the area made that event based on the SETH system.

At this point, Bullitt East has not added any games to the schedule after leaving next week free for a spot in the LIT. The Chargers will play at home this Friday against Moore in a 23rd District contest, but then are



File Photo

Bullitt East’s Drake Mefford scored 17 points in the game against Western Hills

not scheduled at this point to play again until January 20th at Whitefield Academy.

In the win over Western Hills on Monday, Bullitt East shot 48 percent from the field including an impressive 13 of 25 performance on three-pointers. The team was also solid at the foul line, connecting on 12 of 18 shots.

Even with some strong shooting from long range, the Chargers trailed 36-34 at halftime and then pulled ahead with 28 points in the third quarter with six three-pointers including five by senior Connor Stinnett.

That outside shooting was fueled by as he connected on seven of the long shots in 11 attempts. Stinnett was also three of eight inside the arc and was four for four at the foul line to finish with 31 points. The Chargers also got 17 points from senior Drake Mefford and 10 points from Aidan Boyer.

Bullitt East had 29 rebounds in the win with six by Boyer. The early game on Tuesday was a battle to the end before Bullitt East clipped Greenup County 58-54.

The Chargers shot 45 percent from the field overall, but took fewer three-pointers than the day before, finishing four of eight from long range. There were issues at the foul line as Bullitt East was only 12 of 22 at that discipline.

Bullitt East finished with 30 rebounds with seven by Samuel Bates and six each from Boyer and Stinnett.

In the championship game a few hours later, Bullitt East shot 47 percent overall and made six of 18 shots from the outside. The team was also 13 of 19 at the foul line.

Bullitt East led 21-11 after the first quarter but then were outscored in each of the last three frames. The Chargers still led 34-33 at halftime, but then trailed by four points entering the fourth quarter.

It was Russell County that had the hot hand in this game

as the Lakers shot 52 percent overall including goes eight of 20 from long range to seal the win.

Bullitt East did have a 32-19 rebounding margin. Both Boyer and Bates claimed ten rebounds.

Stinnett again led the Chargers in scoring with 21 points while Reynolds collected 14 points and Mefford 11.

AT EAST JESSAMINE HOLIDAY BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

First-Round
Monday, December 29
WESTERN HILLS 77 (19-17-19-22) – Matt Dicken 24, Calen Higgins 19, Preston Clouse 18, Cameron Flynn 8, Bryce Douglas 5, Layton Beard 3.

BULLITT EAST 81 (18-16-28-19) – Connor Stinnett 31, Drake Mefford 17, Aidan Boyer 10, Samuel Bates 7, Jude Bischoff 6, Clay Reynolds 5, Brendan Puffer 3 Landon Ritter 2.

Semifinal Round
Tuesday, December 30
GREENUP COUNTY (13-9-19-13) – Kasey Gammon 21, Camery Chaffins 13, Hunter Holbrook 8, Gavin Roy 5, Kelron Jenkins 5, Bradley Adkins 2.

BULLITT EAST 58 (20-14-11-13) – Connor Stinnett 14, Drake Mefford 11, Samuel Bates 10, Brendan Puffer 8, Jude Bischoff 7, Aidan Boyer 4, Landon Ritter 2, Clay Reynolds 2.

Championship Game
Tuesday, December 30
RUSSELL COUNTY 66 (11-22-14-19) – Bryson Irvin 21, Dylan Stanelle, Maddox Shearer 14, Tyson Stille 6, Andrew Poteet 5, Noah Bennett 2, Max Davis 2, Gabe Browning 2.

BULLITT EAST 61 (21-13-9-18) – Connor Stinnett 21, Clay Reynolds 14, Drake Mefford 11, Aidan Boyer 5, Brendan Puffer 4, Jude Bischoff 3, Samuel Bates 3.

BULLITT CENTRAL PART OF GLORY ROAD TOUR

The Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame (KHSBH) is proud to announce its 2025-26 “GLORY ROAD/HERITAGE GAMES” project that will recognize and honor the many gymnasiums and games across Kentucky that have historical significance in the development of the cultural phenomenon of Kentucky high school basketball. In the coming months, the KHSBH will recognize many GLORY ROAD iconic gymnasiums along with the schools and communities that built them. The HERITAGE GAMES are longstanding rivalries across Kentucky and were the genesis of the popularity of high school basketball. The

GLORY ROAD sites will host the HERITAGE GAMES. Travel Kentucky’s highways and byways visiting gymnasiums where high school basketball history was made, iconic teams played, great players performed, and communities gathered in support of their athletes in action! These sites across the Commonwealth are places where Kentucky basketball began its epic journey, laying out the foundation for today’s game. For more than 100 years, Kentucky high school basketball has been embraced by Kentuckians who came together in gymnasiums of various shapes and sizes to support their teams. 2025-26 KHSBH Glory Road

Gymnasiums and Heritage Games
1. Owsley County Gymnasium / aka “The Palace” – GLORY ROAD Site
Owsley County HS vs. McCreary Central (playing as Pine Knott HS)
DATE: December 13, 2025

TIME:
1:00 pm, Lady Owls vs. McCreary Central
2:30 pm, Owls JV vs. McCreary Central
3:30 pm, 1975-76 Owls Team Recognition
4:00 pm, Owls vs. McCreary Central
2. Roy T. Reasor

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EAGLES

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Eastern and North Bullitt have played nine times since the 2009 season. By winning 52-31 on Monday, the Lady Eagles moved ahead in the series by a 5-4 count. The win in Tennessee was the fourth in a row for the green and gold over the other ‘Eagles’.

Looking at the stat sheet before you knew the final score might have had you thinking of a much closer game or even an Eastern win. North Bullitt finished the game shooting 31 percent overall, but the team was two of 32 on three-pointers and were only two of seven at the foul line.

Still, North Bullitt the game 52-31. The Eastern stat sheet was just as poor as the Lady Eagles in blue did not make a three-pointer in seven attempts. Worse, the team was seven of 25 at the foul line.

North Bullitt got 19 points from freshman Nikkiah Campbell in this game as well as 14 points from senior Mahijian Fall.

Fall had 13 of North Bullitt’s 40 rebounds in the win.

The competition got better in the second game of the trip played a day later. North Bullitt had its second highest offensive output of the season as they got past Lawrence County 72-59.

The shooting got better for the Lady Eagles as the overall shooting mark was 37.5 percent. The team also converted eight three-pointers including six of Downey. The team was also ten of 16 at the foul line.

Downey, with those six three-pointers in 12 attempts, finished with a game-high 29 points. Fall had another strong outing with 14 points and 14 rebounds while the two freshmen, Bauer and Campbell finished with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

On the last day of 2025 North Bullitt picked up that fifth straight win as they knocked off Harlan County in a defensive struggle by a 42-37. That matched the lowest output the Lady Eagles have had a win this season, matching the 42 points they scored in the seven-point they had over Henderson County three weeks earlier.

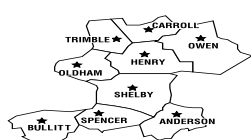
The shooting was still a struggle for the Lady Eagles as they finished 13 of 39 from the field and they had the same percentage from inside and outside at 33.3 percent as they made six three-pointers.

The free throw shooting was also off as the lady Eagles were ten of 18.

North Bullitt’s defense held Harlan County to 31 percent shooting and had a 27-17 rebounding edge.

The Lady Eagles got the win behind 15 points from Downey as well as 13 points and nine rebounds from Fall.

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BIDDING WILL START TO END ON JANUARY 16TH 2:00PM EST



REAL ESTATE: 4663-4665 JACKSON ROAD, EMINENCE, KY 40019. NICE DUPLEX WITH EACH UNIT HAVING TWO BEDROOMS, TWO BATHS, LARGE UTILITY ROOM, KITCHEN, AND LIVING ROOM. ONE UNIT IS IN GOOD CONDITION, THE OTHER UNIT WILL NEED SOME WORK. TOTAL THEY BRING IN \$1,300 A MONTH (\$650 EACH) AND TENANTS PAY UTILITIES.
4669-4671 JACKSON ROAD, EMINENCE, KY 40019. NICE DUPLEX AND EACH UNIT IS TWO BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS, LARGE UTILITY ROOM, KITCHEN, AND LIVING ROOM. THE RENT IS \$500/\$550 AND TENANT PAYS UTILITIES.
316-318 SULPHUR AVENUE, EMINENCE, KY 40019. DUPLEX AND EACH UNIT IS TWO BEDROOMS, ONE BATH, KITCHEN, LIVING ROOM, AND UTILITY ROOM. THE FRONT UNIT RENT IS \$600 AND THE REAR UNIT IS \$500. THERE IS ONLY ONE WATER METER, SO WATER IS INCLUDED WITH THE RENT. WATER INCLUDES SEWER AND SOLID WASTE REMOVAL.
248 MERRIWEATHER AVENUE, EMINENCE, KY 40019 SINGLE FAMILY HOME WITH THREE BEDROOMS, TWO BATHS, IN NEED OF SOME REPAIR. GOOD LOCATION AND GOOD RENTERS IN PLACE THAT PAY \$600 PER MONTH AND TENANT PAYS ALL UTILITIES.
2230 CHRISTIANBURG ROAD, SHELBYVILLE, KY 40065 SINGLE-FAMILY HOME IN GOOD CONDITION, SITTING ON 1 ACRE. THE HOME HAS THREE BEDROOMS, 1.5 BATHS, 1,100 SF, LIVING ROOM, KITCHEN AND UTILITY ROOM. THE PROPERTY ALSO HAS A METAL BUILDING ON IT FOR A SHOP AREA OR EQUIPMENT STORAGE.
8644 CROPPER ROAD, SHELBYVILLE, KY 40065 SINGLE FAMILY HOME ON A LARGE LOT. ONE BEDROOM AND ONE BATH. THIS HOME NEEDS SOME REPAIR.

PUBLIC INSPECTION WILL ONLY BE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 11TH 2-4PM
TERMS: A 10% BUYERS PREMIUM WILL BE ADDED TO THE FINAL BID TO DETERMINE THE FINAL SALES PRICE OF EACH PROPERTY. THE WINNING BIDDER SHALL PUT DOWN 10% OF THE TOTAL SALES PRICE AS A DEPOSIT AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE AUCTION, WITH THE BALANCE DUE ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 16TH, 2026.

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WILLARD AUCTIONS

Safe indoor plant pest controls

Have you noticed a sticky substance on the floor beneath your ficus or philodendron? Are there little scabs on the underside of the leaves of your orchid? Maybe you have noticed that your plants just look a little lack luster. Well, we can blame some of the plant puniness on being a tropical houseplant indoors in Kentuckiana during the winter. Low levels of humidity and low levels of light trigger a response in plants that slows them down, causing them to shed foliage and leaving them in a standby phase until the environment turns more favorable. However, another reality of being a houseplant is that you are susceptible to a handful of insect problems while waiting indoors until spring.

By the time people notice a problem with a plant a couple of things are already beginning to happen. I mentioned the sticky stuff on the floor well, that’s actually honeydew. Honeydew is a nice way of saying bug poop. Also, yellowing or the shedding of leaves is common in the winter but it could be caused by insect problems, too.

Many of the insects that feed on our plants are considered sucking insects and the worst of the offenders are called scales. There are soft scales and armored scales, the latter of which

does not produce honeydew. The former does and is considered the most common and the most troublesome for plants. Scales can be found on either side of the leaves but most often they choose to secure themselves on the underside.

How do you tell if you have scale? The scale looks like a small oval scab and besides the stickiness left behind by the honeydew other symptoms can be seen in distorted, yellowing foliage and an overall pale as the scales suck the juices from the plant.

There are several different ways to control scale, all of which are low on the toxicity scale, no pun intended. Horticultural oil is a safe and effective approach which essentially smoothers the scale. On houseplants apply a 2 percent solution and be sure that you are using the lighter horticultural grade oil, not the heavier dormant oil. Pruning heavily infested plants may also be a good idea before you begin your treatment. For plants that are lightly infested you can clean the plant up and remove the scale with rubbing alcohol and a cotton ball, use insecticidal soap, or soapy water and a soft cloth.

Spidermites are also common on houseplants and can be identified by the “bronzing” effect that their feeding activity causes and by the existence of clusters

of webbing. The spidermites themselves are tiny and hard to see but the symptoms they cause are obvious. Spidermites essentially suck the chlorophyll from the plant that causes the foliage to take on a brownish color. Indoor control methods for spidermites include horticultural oils, misting to increase humidity levels (high humidity is unfavorable) or placing the plant in the shower to destroy the webs and knock the mites from the plant.

Fungus gnats are not as common except for those who have plants that require constant moisture and are potted in mixtures high in organic matter. Fungus gnats do not damage the foliage of plants like the other indoor plant pests but they can prove to be a nuisance if you have an infestation indoors. When the female gnat is ready to lay her eggs, she is attracted to moist areas high in organic matter. Once the larvae hatch they primarily feed on the organic matter that attracted their mother but if the source is insufficient them they may begin feeding on the plant’s roots and root hairs. Of course, the root feeding will cause the plant to wilt and if it continues it can kill the plant.

If you have a problem with fungus gnats, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Let your houseplants dry out between waterings and use a sterile potting mixture instead of one that is high in organic matter.



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