

# CHAMPS

FROM PAGE B1

decisive 45-11 victory. In the semifinals, McLean faced bitter rival and last season's GRVC runner-up, Muhlenberg County, in a hard-fought battle, narrowly escaping with a 43-39 win. The championship game pitted McLean against the Butler County Bears, a Cinderella story in the tournament. Despite the Bears' momentum, the Cougars controlled the action early, jumping out to a 10-point lead. Butler County cut the deficit to four just before halftime, but McLean responded by extending the lead back to double digits in the third quarter. From there, they traded baskets with the Bears before securing a 39-29 victory and their second consecutive GRVC title.

While the Cougars have solidified their place in school history, Caine remains uncertain about his long-term coaching future. Having guided this group of eighth-graders through their middle school careers, Caine has expressed interest in possibly coaching at a higher level. However, he insists that there's no rush. "My job is to help these guys get to the next level," Caine said. "We'll probably take a little time off and celebrate. We will have our



Photo by Tom Carr Photography.

MCMC Cougar basketball player Carter Howard (#40) hoists the GRVC championship trophy following the team's conference championship win against the Butler County Bears on Jan. 30. The eighth-grade Cougars are the first team to earn back-to-back championship titles in school history.



Photo by Tom Carr Photography.

The McLean County Middle School eighth-grade basketball team: front row, from left to right, Coach Caine, Mason Lannum, Noah Crabtree, Sam Hancock, Clay Brown, Brayden Shocklee, Evan Miller, Raylan Tate, Coach Thomas Webb. Back row, from left to right, Cade Colburn, Carter Howard, Jackson Abney, Channing Miller, Coach Farkas.

end-of-the-year banquet, but within the next month, we'll get back in the gym and get back to work."

This championship

marks the first-ever eighth-grade GRVC title in school history, cementing the legacy of this special group of players. With a strong foundation in place, McLean County Middle School basketball looks poised for continued success in the years to come.

# GAMES

FROM PAGE B1

## GRAYSON COUNTY 50, MCLEAN COUNTY 47 (2OT)

In a thrilling matchup on Saturday, Feb. 1, McLean County mounted a massive fourth-quarter comeback but ultimately fell short in double overtime against Grayson County, 50-47. The Lady Cougars entered the fourth quarter trailing 37-25 but stormed back with an 18-point quarter to take a 43-41 lead. However, Grayson County hit two clutch free throws with 0.2 seconds left to force overtime before sealing the win in double OT.

Floyd led McLean again with 19 points, adding seven rebounds to her performance. Kenadi Level had eight points and seven rebounds, while Mallory Hampton and Katie McCoy each chipped in with six and five points, respectively. The Lady Cougars struggled at the free-throw line, shooting just 33.3% on 24 attempts, which proved costly down the stretch.

After the week's games, Coach Eli Ellis spoke about his team's continued improvement and the importance of closing out games effectively.

"Our girls are continuing to take big strides in the right direction now that they are understanding how to execute our schemes along with continuing to push themselves on defense. We were a few free throws



Photo by Tom Carr Photography.

Lady Cougars Sara and Ella Larkin trap a Grayson County player during the MCHS girls' basketball game on Saturday. The Lady Cougars recorded a 47-50 loss following the match up.

away from being a 12-10 team, so we have to continue to work on closing games out better by making shots and making better shot choices later in the game. I like where we are sitting and think we have a great shot in our district tournament coming up," Ellis said.

Ellis also addressed the controversial ending of the game against Hancock County earlier in the season, where a buzzer-beater at the end of the first overtime period forced a second overtime. Many observers believed the shot came after the clock expired, but the officials counted it, allowing Hancock County to win in double OT.

Despite the heartbreaking loss to Grayson County, the Lady Cougars' recent success has them playing some of their best basketball of the season.

The Lady Cougars faced a big out-of-region test on Tuesday, Feb. 4, when Madisonville North Hopkins came to Calhoun. They will follow that game up with another big out-of-region matchup on Friday, Feb. 7, at Hopkinsville High School.

With the district tournament approaching, McLean County looks to continue building momentum and improving late-game execution in hopes of making a postseason run.



Braiden Davis takes a shot against a Logan County Cougar defender during the MCHS game on Saturday at the Owensboro SportsCenter.

Photo by Tom Carr Photography.

# DROP

FROM PAGE B1

scoring efforts with 16 points, hitting five three-pointers, including three in the third quarter. Camden Baird added 12. Zane Decker contributed six points, and Bozarth chipped in with two.

Despite their struggles, McLean showed moments of resilience, particularly in their third-quarter surge.

## LOOKING AHEAD

With three consecutive

losses, the Cougars fell to 13-9 on the year. They will look to regroup and refocus as they prepare for the final stretch of their season.

They faced off in a highly anticipated rematch with Hopkins County Central on Monday, Feb. 3 in Calhoun.

Following the matchup on Monday, the Cougars will travel to Trigg County to square off with the Wildcats on Friday, Feb. 7. In the three matchups between the Wildcats and Cougars since coach Lynam took the helm at McLean, the Cougars hold a 2-1 record over the Wildcats.

# DID YOU KNOW?



By Duke Brubaker

Super Bowl LIX will be a rematch of Super Bowl LVII with the Kansas City Chiefs taking on the Philadelphia Eagles. This will be the 10th rematch in Super Bowl history.

The only other time a pro team from Kansas City and a pro team from Philadelphia have competed against each other in a championship game was the 1980 World Series featuring the Kansas City Royals and Philadelphia Phillies. The Phillies ended up winning the World Series in 6 games.

This will be first time the Superdome has hosted the Super Bowl since 2013 — a game best remembered by its power outage and 34 minute blackout.

According to WalletHub.com, the average ticket price of a Super Bowl LIX ticket on the resale market is \$11,067 — a 17% increase from 2024.

The Super Bowl is the 2nd highest food consumption day in the US, following only Thanksgiving Day.



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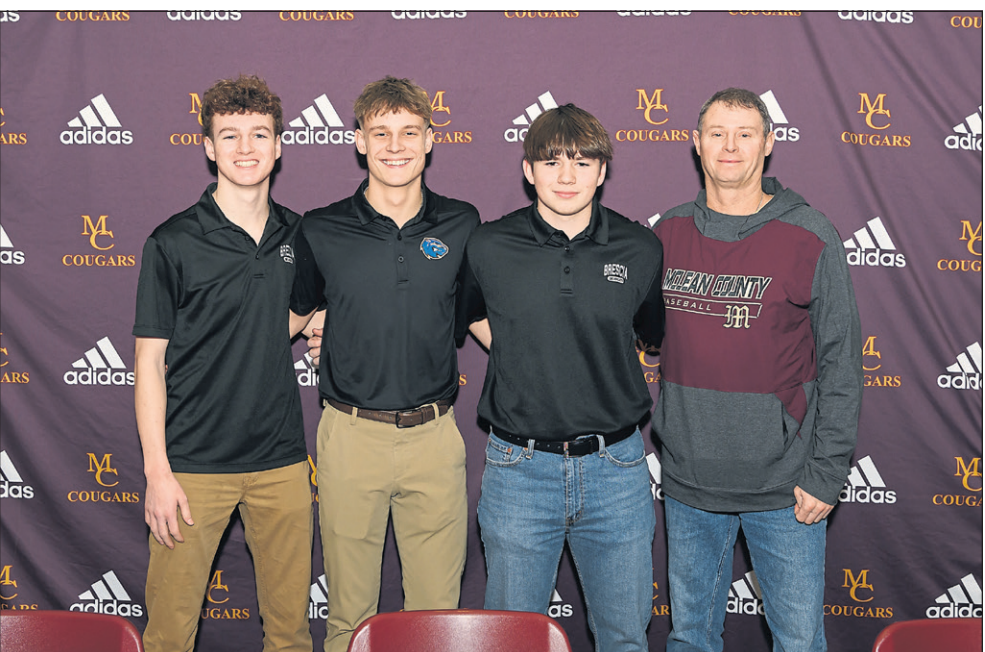


Photo by Tom Carr Photography.

Left to right, Jax Lee, Connor Mitchuson and Hayden Hudson pose for a photo with McLean County High School baseball coach Darren Lynam after signing to play college baseball for the Brescia Bearcats during a ceremony held on Friday.

# TRIO

FROM PAGE B1

throwing to me and helping me work on my craft. I feel very grateful to have him in my corner," Mitchuson said.

Hudson pointed to the coaching staff at McLean County.

"My coaches challenge me every day at practice, and that has helped prepare me

for what's next," he said.

With their futures set and one final season of high school baseball ahead, Lee, Mitchuson and Hudson are ready to make the most of their senior year before heading to Brescia University.

For now, though, they remain focused on one goal — winning a district championship and making their mark one last time in McLean County colors before officially becoming Bearcats.

# LEGAL NOTICE

## PUBLIC NOTICE:

McLean County Fiscal Court will be accepting separate sealed bids for the following surplus property located at:

McLean County Southern District / Sacramento Fire Department  
290 Main Street  
Sacramento, Kentucky, 42372

(SURPLUS #1) - 1996 GMC SIERRA TRUCK- "K19" EXTENDED CAB-WHITE  
VIN NUMBER #1GTEK19R3TE536455-MILES 113,624

(SURPLUS #2)- ALUMINUM WATER TANK & HOSE (200-300 Gallon Tank (Approximately), HONDA GX 160 ENGINE & PUMP (All property functions except the water hose does not retract)

Surplus property is offered "as is" and to be removed by purchaser within 30 days of purchase.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the McLean County Judge Executive office located at 210 Main Street, Calhoun, Ky by 4:00 p.m., March 7th, 2025 and will be open March 10th, 2025, 9:00 A.M. CST at the Fiscal Court Meeting held in the McLean County Courthouse. If you have any questions, contact the Judge's office at 270.273.3213 Ext. 1.

McLean County Fiscal Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

