

Barbourville splits two matches in 13th Region All 'A' Classic

By Les Dixon
Sports Writer

MIDDLESBORO — Barbourville opened the 13th Region All 'A' Classic with a convincing victory before seeing its tournament run come to an end against Middlesboro.

The Lady Tigers began tournament play against

Red Bird and controlled the match from start to finish. Barbourville rolled to a 25-10 victory in the opening set before taking the second, 25-13, to complete the 2-0 sweep and advance.

That set up a matchup with eventual champion Middlesboro, where the Lady Tigers found them-

selves in a much tighter battle.

Barbourville pushed Middlesboro throughout the opening set before falling 25-22. The Lady Jackets then captured the second set, 25-20, to hand the Lady Tigers a 2-0 loss and end their tournament run.

Despite falling short of

the result her team wanted, Barbourville coach Bry Strunk credited Middlesboro while challenging her Lady Tigers to learn from the weekend.

"We fell shorter than we hoped this weekend," she said. "We battled with an amazing Middlesboro team. Ashley has really

done wonders over there. I love seeing more of the little schools showing good competition. I'm hoping my girls can focus on our mistakes from this weekend and critique them during games and practice this week before we head to Estill County this weekend."

Knox Central overcomes lineup changes, finishes runner-up in Kentucky 2A, Section 7 Tournament

By Les Dixon
Sports Writer

STEARNS — Knox Central overcame missing players and a lineup filled with unfamiliar roles to make an impressive run to the championship match of the Kentucky 2A, Section 7 Tournament.

The Lady Panthers opened tournament play with a straight-set victory over Clay County, winning 25-17, 25-18, before turning in one of the program's biggest victories in recent years against Bell County.

Knox Central defeated the Lady Cats 25-21, 25-14, marking the Lady Panthers' first victory over Bell County since 2020 and sending Knox Central into the Section 7 champion-

ship match.

Defending 13th Region champion Whitley County ended the Lady Panthers' run in the title match, winning 25-9, 25-9, but Knox Central coach Erin Salyers came away proud of what her team accomplished while dealing with significant lineup adjustments.

"I am extremely proud of how my girls performed today," Salyers said. "Making it to the championship was huge for us, especially considering the adjustments we had to make. We were missing some key players, including a lot of the height we normally have at the net. The lineup we put on the floor had never practiced together in those positions, so I couldn't be

prouder of the way they stepped up and competed."

Among the adjustments, Kenzie Osborne moved to outside hitter, Kennadi Jones moved to the middle and Milli Ledford took over on the right side.

Madi Hubbard also stepped into the varsity libero role after serving as Knox Central's junior varsity libero.

"Kenzie Osborne stepped in and played outside for us, Kennadi Jones moved to middle, and Milli Ledford played right side," Salyers said. "Madi Hubbard also stepped up in a huge way as our libero. Madi has been our JV libero, so the jump in speed and intensity to varsity libero was a big

one for her. She played really solid defense, and her serve receive was great. I was extremely proud of the way she handled that responsibility."

Despite the loss in the championship match, Salyers said the result didn't diminish what her team accomplished throughout the tournament.

"Most coaches would probably be upset about a loss like the one we took against Whitley County, but I'm not," she said. "I know my girls gave everything they had, especially after being thrown into positions they weren't accustomed to playing. They didn't make excuses. They adjusted, competed, and did the best they could for

their team."

The victory over Bell County provided another sign of the progress Salyers believes the Lady Panthers are making.

"One of the biggest moments of the day was defeating Bell County for the first time since 2020," Salyers said. "That is something these girls should be extremely proud of, and it shows the progress we are making as a program."

"Whitley County has a phenomenal volleyball program, and I want to congratulate their players and coaches," she added. "I'm proud of my girls for finishing as runner-up, and I'm excited about where we are headed. Go Panthers."

Bulldogs Fall on the Road to the Eagles

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MONTGOMERY, Ala. – The Union Commonwealth University football team (0-2) fell to Faulkner (1-1) 44-0 Saturday afternoon at Billy D. Hilyer Stadium.

Last season, the Bulldogs fell to Faulkner 41-15 at Williamson Stadium. The Eagles prevailed again Saturday, as Union was unable to overcome a 44-0 deficit.

GAME RECAP
First Quarter

Faulkner 6, Union Commonwealth 0

Following a Union punt to Faulkner's 48-yard line, the Eagles drove down to the UCU18. On third-and-5, Faulkner quarterback Kamden Wellington found wide receiver Tomon Felton in the end zone for a touchdown to put the Eagles ahead 6-0. Kicker Jacob Huff missed the extra point.

The Bulldogs had three more drives in the quarter, with two drives ending in punts and one ending in an interception.

Second Quarter

Faulkner 20, Union Commonwealth 0

Faulkner opened the quarter with another touchdown, as Wellington connected with Felton on a pass for a touchdown from the UCU29. Huff converted the extra point to put the Eagles ahead 13-0 with 13:52 remaining in the quarter.

After both teams punted and Union turned the ball over on downs, Faulkner took over at the UCU46. The Eagles went on a five-play drive that ended with running back Robin Harris finding the end zone on first-and-goal from the UCU1. Huff's extra point extended the lead to 20-0 with 5:42 remaining.

The Bulldogs' offensive struggles continued for the remainder of the half, as Union recorded a punt and another

turnover on downs.

Third Quarter

Faulkner 27, Union Commonwealth 0

Both teams punted to begin the quarter before Faulkner took over at its own 3-yard line. The Eagles put together a nine-play drive that ended when Wellington connected with wide receiver Darian Riggs on a 63-yard touchdown pass on second-and-20 from its own 37-yard line. Huff's extra point made it 27-0 with 6:54 remaining.

Neither team scored for the remainder of the quarter.

Fourth Quarter

Faulkner 44, Union Commonwealth 0

Faulkner continued its drive into the fourth quarter, starting at its own 41-yard line after beginning the drive at its own 3-yard line near the end of the third quarter. The Eagles marched down the field on a 17-play drive before attempting a field goal on fourth-and-goal from the UCU6. Huff converted the field goal to extend the lead to 30-0 with 9:30 remaining.

Union went three-and-out on its next drive before Faulkner took over at the UCU44. Following a 25-yard run by running back Jordan Moultrie, the Eagles faced first-and-10 from the UCU19. Wellington found wide receiver Jamichael Taylor for a touchdown. Huff's extra point made it 37-0 with 6:36 remaining.

Faulkner added another touchdown on its next possession after a seven-play, 70-yard drive. Running back Boogie Booker scored on a 44-yard touchdown run on second-and-9 from the UCU44. Huff's extra point made the final score 44-0 with 26 seconds remaining.

Up Next

Union returns home Saturday, Sept. 19, to take on (RV) Taylor at Williamson Stadium at noon.

Mitchell's Cats hit the road Virginia, will play Thomas Walker Friday

By Les Dixon
Sports Writer

CORBIN — Three games into the season, and it's been a rollercoaster so far for the Lynn Camp Wildcats.

Allen Mitchell's squad opened the season with a 55-0 loss to Jellico, Tenn. before picking up their first win of the season a week later with a 30-24 victory over Berea.

The Wildcats had hopes of running their win streak to two games last week but were shutout for the second time in three weeks, losing to Knott Central, 37-0.

Lynn Camp looks to get back on track this week against Thomas Walker, Va. The Pioneers are 0-3 and looking to

get win No. 1. They dropped a 21-12 decision to Central Wise to open the season before falling to Cumberlands Gap, 30-21, and Lee, 34-6.

Mitchell's squad will look to improve on both sides of the ball Friday to get the win.

Quarterback Josh Jody has completed 10-of-36 pass attempts for 251 yards and three touchdowns this season. Christian Hart leads Lynn Camp with 117 rushing yards while Conner Mabe has 39. Mabe leads the team with six receptions, 212 receiving yards, and three touchdowns while Hart has two catches for 15 yards.

Defensively, Blake Partin has a team-best 37 tackles while Jody has 28.

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— America's Newspapers - 2023 Local Readership Survey

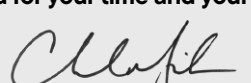
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