Logan County Cougars dominate Taylor County 52-20 in playoff opener

BY WES ELROD
NEWS-DEMOCRAT & LEADER

Playoff football is here, as the Logan County Cougars took to their home field for round one, going up against the Taylor County Cardinals. Earning a running clock in the third quarter, the Cougars made quick work of the Cardinals, advancing to the next round with their 52-20 victory.

The Cougars' offense could not be contained as the linemen up front were winning the battle in the trenches. The tackle duo of Grayson Crocker and Lucas Cross, with the interior of Maliq Ford, Dayton Hurt, and Noah Thomas, dominated the line of scrimmage, freeing up the running game and keeping quarterback Luke Rogers upright. The Cougars earned the opening touchdown as Christian Helle rushed in from eight yards out. Helle would end the night with five rushing touchdowns on 10 carries for 129 yards.

The Cougars had plenty of highlights through the air as well, with Rogers connecting on 12 of his 20 passes for 205 yards and two touchdowns. An explosive 43-yard touchdown grab along the sideline for JB McTire, and Ty'Sean Thomeczek flattening a defender on the way to the endzone for another 15-yard touchdown, showed that their offense was taking no prisoners. Thomeczek led as the top receiver with six catches for 90 yards, as Elijah Sells had three catches for 58. With seven touchdowns, kicker Ethan Scarbrough made all seven point-after attempts in addition to a 25-yard make on a field goal.

Talking with the Cougars head coach Todd Adler, he emphasized the team's health and pointed to the offensive line and Helle being the keys to their offensive success. "We are finally starting to get healthy and get all of our pieces in the right spots. The offensive line sets the tone for our offense. When they do their job, it allows us to get our athletes in space. Christian is running the ball better and better each week. Winning up front and in the trenches is always important for success on the offensive side of the ball."

On defense, linebacker Carson Carlock led with 13 tackles, as freshman Brett Adler ended the night with two sacks and three tackles for a loss in his first start. Sells added to his school record in fumble recoveries, and Michael Montgomery earned his second interception of the season. The defense did their part as Adler said, "We gave up two touchdowns off of our mistakes on offense. Both scores came off our turnovers. The defense continues to play well and together. They are playing physical and flying to the ball. That has to continue to improve night in and night out."

The Cougars are full steam ahead, as they will get to host another playoff game tomorrow night against a familiar opponent in the Calloway County Lakers. The Lakers upset the one-seeded Elizabethtown Panthers in overtime, but the Cougars are heavily favored in this bout. The two teams met earlier this season in a district matchup as the Cougars went on the road and came away with the 43-7 victory then, as they look to repeat it once again tomorrow night. Adler expressed it may not come as easily as it did earlier this season, though. "We are expecting a dog fight. We are familiar with them just like they are us. They are playing a lot better football than they were six weeks ago and I'm sure their confidence is through the roof, going on the road and pulling off an upset last week. It's the playoffs and with only 16 teams left, everyone is playing desperation football. No one wants to go home and hang it up for the season. Especially with a chance to get to a regional championship game next week."

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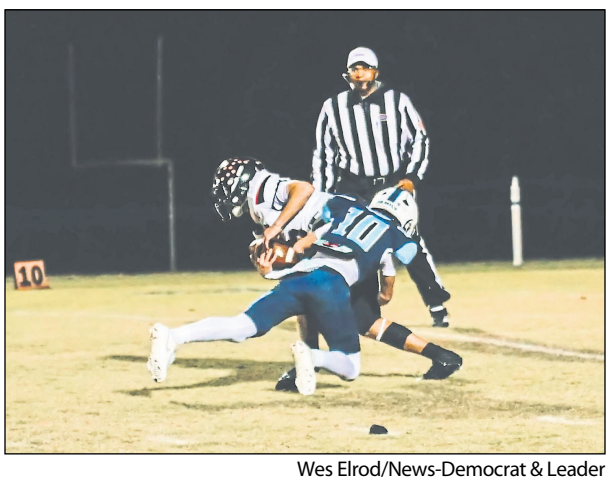
Cougars place kicker Ethan Scarbrough went 7-for-7 on point-after attempts in their matchup against Taylor County.



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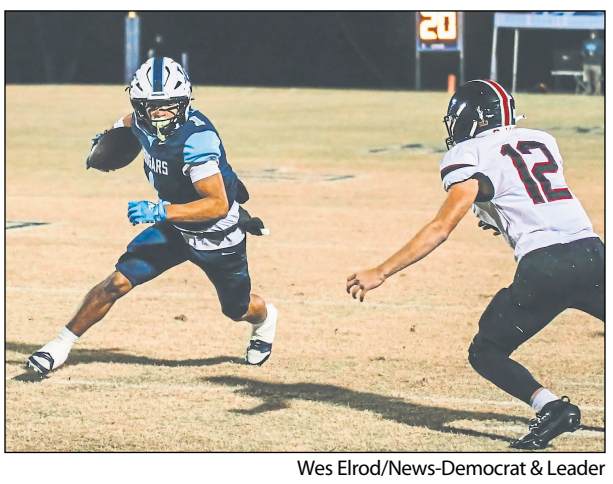
Freshman Brett Adler (10) gets the sack on the quarterback, tallying two for the Cougars defense against Taylor County.



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Ty'Sean Thomeczek (1) evades the defender on the catch-and-run for the Cougars.



Logan County's Christian Helle (6) carries the ball on his way to a five-touchdown day with Ty'Sean Thomeczek blocking out in front



Wes Elrod/News-Democrat & Leader

Maliq Ford (58) and Grayson Crocker (55) anchor the left side of the Cougars offensive line.

LOGAN

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April 2025, the county documented six disaster-level flooding events affecting communities such as Russellville, Adairville, Auburn, Epleys, Schley, Halo, Cooperstown, and Ferguson. The report also highlights four winter storms, severe weather in areas like Chandlers Chapel and Olmstead, and four tornadoes: Dec. 11, 2021: Crossroads; Jan. 1, 2022: Olmstead; Dec. 9, 2023: Olmstead; and May 16, 2025: Danby.

Geological hazards, including sinkholes and karst terrain, threaten underground drainage, while hazardous materials transported via regional highways, railways, and pipelines present additional risks.

The steering committee identified critical deficiencies in Logan County's emergency warning and sheltering infrastructure:

- Outdoor Warning Sirens: Six sirens provide approximately 20% countywide coverage.
- Alert Systems and Safe Rooms: The county lacks public tornado safe rooms, storm shelters, and a countywide alert messaging system.
- Community Teams: There are currently no active Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), though reorganization efforts are underway.

The county's emergency response system handles roughly 3,500 calls monthly, supported by six fire stations, three fire substations, four police stations, seven advanced life support ambulances, and one search and rescue team. Average emergency medical service response times range from 10 to 20 minutes.

Infrastructure upgrades form the core of the proposed mitigation plan. Several projects carry a very high Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) priority score, including countywide communications improvements, electrical grid strengthening, and evaluations of water and wastewater capacity.

Key utility and infrastructure projects include:

- **Water and Wastewater**: Modernizing Adairville's wastewater treatment plant, rehabilitating Lewisburg's water system, replacing the East Logan Water District's Cemetery Tank waterline, and procuring backup generators for sewer facilities and the Search and Rescue building (targeted for December 2027 completion). Numerous individual water and sewer construction projects remain classified as not started.
- **Transportation and Roads**: Ongoing efforts to inventory flood-prone culverts, roads, and bridges; widening U.S. 79 (ongoing); constructing an access road at the West Industrial Park (in progress); and evaluating downtown sidewalk, crosswalk, and lighting improvements.

The plan incorporates community development initiatives, pointing to $34.1 million generated in direct and indirect tourism spending in 2024.

SEE **LOGAN/PAGE A7**



LEGAL NOTICE

LOGAN COUNTY EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to section 324, Title III of the Federal Super fund Amendments and Re-authorization Act (SARA) of 1986 (PL 99-499),The following information is provided in Compliance with the Community Right-To-Know requirements of the SARA Law and The open meetings and open records provisions of Kentucky Revised Statistics. Members of the public may contact the Logan County Emergency Planning Committee by writing Cheryl Allen, Chairman of the Logan County Local Emergency Planning Committee at: 101 Fischer Drive Russellville Ky. 42276 or by calling 270-221-0357
The Logan County Emergency Planning Committee Conducts meetings at the Russellville Rural Fire Department
101 Fischer Dr. Russellville Kentucky, in accordance
With the Kentucky open meetings Law. Members Of the public may request to be notified of regular or special meetings as provided in KRS 61.820 and KRS 61.825 Records of the planning committee including the County Emergency Response Plan, material safety data sheets, and inventory forms of any follow up emergency notices that may be Subsequently be issued are also open for inspection, Members of the public Who wish to review records may do so at the Russellville Rural Fire Department upon request . The Local 24-hour telephone number for purposes of emergency notification, as required by SARA is 911.
Cheryl Allen LEPC Chairman

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE IN SUMMARY
CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-06
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, KENTUCKY, ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026, BY ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF CITY GOVERNMENT

In accordance with KRS 83A.060(9), the undersigned, a licensed, practicing attorney in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, summarizes this Ordinance as follows:
1) This Ordinance amends Ordinance No. 2025-10 by amending amounts in the attachments to the Ordinance reflecting Revenue and Appropriations of the City of Russellville for fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026 to reflect the year's actual revenue and appropriations.
2) The full text of this Ordinance and its attachments is available for copying and inspection at the office Russellville City Clerk, 168 South Main Street, Russellville, during normal business hours.
3) The City Council of Russellville, Kentucky enacted this Ordinance after a first reading conducted on October 20, 2026, and a second reading and passage on the 3rd day of November, 2026.
CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL: The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that the foregoing is an accurate summary of City of Russellville Ordinance No. 2026-06.

Elizabeth Teel, Esq.
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Russellville, Kentucky 42276
Telephone: (270) 726-7800

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE IN SUMMARY
CITY OF RUSSELLVILLE, KENTUCKY
ORDINANCE NO. 2026-07
AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING THE LIVE STREAMING OF THE RUSSELLVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC ARCHIVING OF MEETING RECORDINGS AND MINUTES IN ACCORDANCE WITH KENTUCKY OPEN MEETINGS AND OPEN RECORDS LAWS

In accordance with KRS 83A.060(9), the undersigned, a licensed, practicing attorney in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, summarizes this Ordinance as follows:
1) This Ordinance requires live streaming and online archiving of open City Council meetings, recordings, and minutes, so long as reasonably practicable. On the official City website, there will be a clearly labeled "City Council Meetings" section for the following: links for live stream access, archived video recordings, archived Meeting agendas, and archived meeting minutes.
2) The provisions of this ordinance shall be implemented beginning in January 2027.
3) The full text of this Ordinance and its attachments is available for copying and inspection at the office Russellville City Clerk, 168 South Main Street, Russellville, during normal business hours.
4) The City Council of Russellville, Kentucky enacted this Ordinance after a first reading conducted on October 20, 2026, and a second reading and passage on the 3rd day of November, 2026.
CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL: The undersigned attorney hereby certifies that the foregoing is an accurate summary of City of Russellville Ordinance No. 2026-06.

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