

Four more Estill seniors sign letters

The past week has been a busy one with senior night on Friday night and the college signings by players on both Wednesday and Friday. In what seems like a bumper year, Estill now has five players who have signed athletic intentions with colleges, including Joe Benton in December of 2019.

Three Estill Engineers football players signed letters on Wednesday, and Lady Engineer Kaylee Riddell signed to play for Berea College on Friday. Football signees included Calaab Jones, Dyllan Officer and Micah Swim. Riddell, who is an excellent basketball player for the Lady Engineers, signed to play fastpitch softball for Berea. Earlier, Joe Benton who was recently named "14th Region Player of the Year" in basketball, had signed to play golf for Eastern Kentucky University.

Kaylee Riddell is the daughter of Brian Riddell and Crystal Chapman and has been a member of the girls basketball team for four years, volleyball for three years, and fastpitch softball for four years. She has played softball for two different head coaches, two years for Shirley Beard, who retired after 2018, and Amy E. Kaylor who coached for only one year at Estill in 2019. This year, Riddell will be playing for Lynn West who has been named the new head coach for Estill.

Beard said Riddell always gave her 100% and is one of the most respectful and talented players she had coached. "She always has a good attitude," added Beard.

Riddell played in 78 games for the Lady Engineers in three years with 68 runs batted in and 59 runs. She has an average of .364 with a .429 in 2019.

Calaab Jones has played football for six years at three different high schools, Pilgram, Madison Central and then Estill. He signed papers to play for Defiance College in Ohio where he plans to become an Exercise Science major. His parents are Melissa Jones and Anthony McKinney. He also participated in track and field.

"I have nothing but love and respect for the Estill County football program. It has changed me and made me a better man. This

program has also given some of the best memories that'll last a lifetime. I come to Estill to succeed on and off the field, and the coaches have really helped me do so. So, thank you to Coach Marcum, Coach Boone, Coach Thomas, Coach Barnett, and Coach Swim. I see nothing but success in the future for this program; it may come little by little, but eventually."

Dylan Officer has played organized football since the first grade. He play centers and has for almost his whole life, but adds, "I can play anywhere on the line." He will be attending Eastern Kentucky University. "I've spent my entire life here in Estill County, and I am so happy to say I've been an Engineer my whole life!! I'm not completely decided on what I want to do in college, but I know I either want to go into education or business." His parents are Donna Officer and Steve Officer.

"I have played football my whole life but also picked up track and field last year and plan to do it again this year," said Dylan. "The Estill County program is an amazing one that completely changed my life forever. I am so grateful for everything the program has given to me!! Go Big E!!!!"

Dylan had 25 tackles, two sacks and two fumble recoveries for Estill.

Micah Swim has played football for 10 years, all at Estill County.

Micah received 21 receptions for 310 yards and 6 touchdowns receiving. He rushed for 27 yards and three touchdowns with 10 2-point conversions. Total points scored was 74. Defensively, Micah had 38 tackles, three sacks, three fumble recoveries and two interceptions.

He plans to attend at the University of the Cumberlands. His position is tight end. He plans to become a Physical Therapist. His parents are Dena and Russ Swim.

Other sports for Micah are track & field. He won the region in discus in 2019 and the 2016 district championship in football. He is also a member of FCCLA and the Beta Club. His church is Irvine First Baptist.

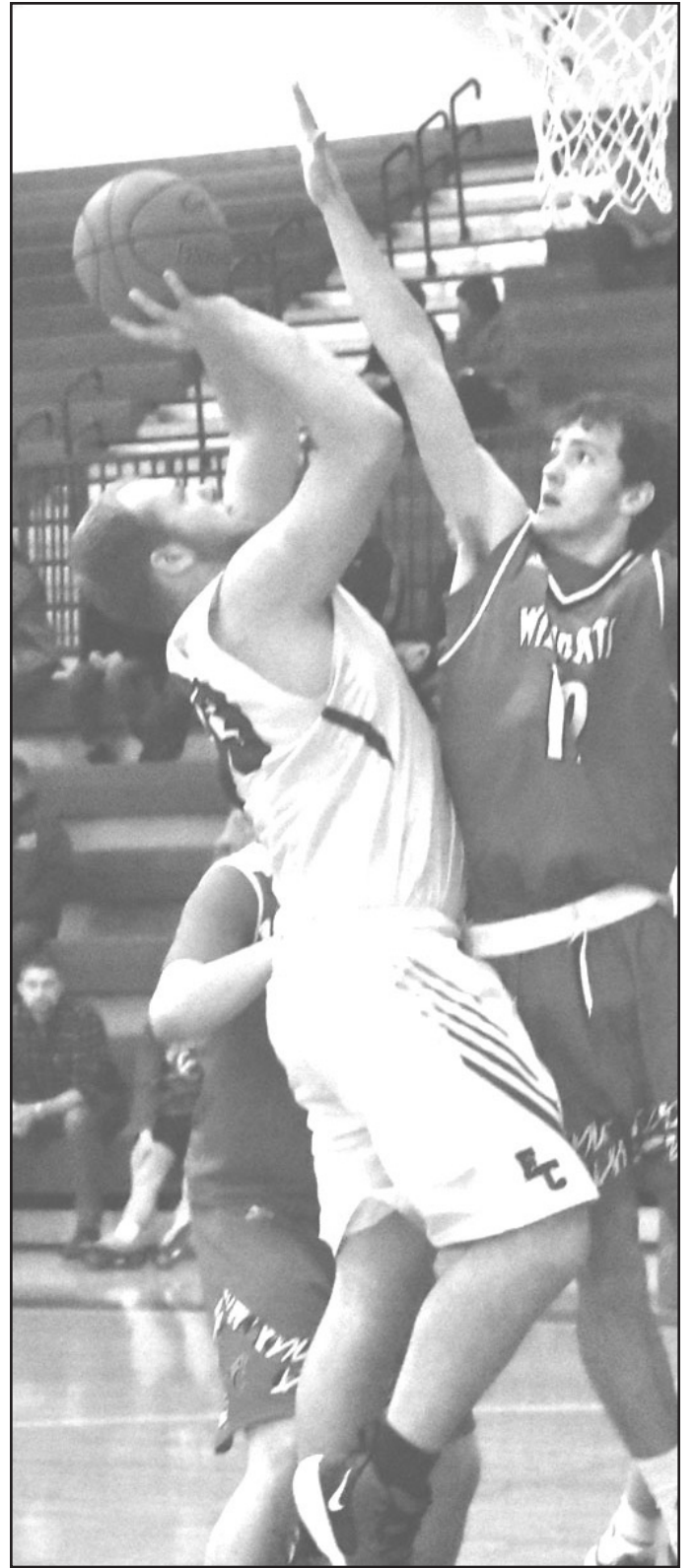
Micah says, "the football program at Estill County High School

is a great program to create great young men to help their community, and have the ability to perform at a high level on a Friday night. All of the Coaches here at Estill County are great coaches, and great people to be around to teach you how to become great young men. All around this football program led by Coach Marcum is heading in the right way to much more success! #GOBIGE #ALLABOARD."

Photos of players and parents are on Page 15. Congratulations to all!

"14th Region Player of the Year" **Joe Benton** had signed earlier to play golf at ECU. He is the son of Ricky Joe and Chasity Benton and has been a basketball Engineer for 6 years and on the golf team for nine years. His biggest hero and inspiration is his mom and dad because they have always been there for him and supported him through the ups and downs. Joe will attend ECU to further his academic and golf career. His favorite memory is winning the regional tournament and getting to play at Rupp Arena.

Estill head basketball coach Jon Bentley noted on Joe's naming as player of the year, "I would like to congratulate Estill County High School's Joe Benton on being named the KABC 14th Region boys' basketball player of the year. We have had the distinct honor of having Joe play varsity basketball since his 7th grade year of school in Estill County. I remember when he checked into his first basketball game as a 7th grader at Lee County and he hit his very first shot attempt (a deep 3-pointer from the left wing). Coincidentally, his senior night was against Lee County this evening as well. Joe has been an integral part of our program and we are so Blessed and thankful for him. He has impacted and inspired so many people in our high school and community. He has signed a full scholarship to play golf at Eastern Kentucky University at the next level. However, his integrity, character, and faith in the good Lord above will be what takes him the furthest in life. We love you Joe and thank you for everything you have accomplished." Congratulations, Joe!



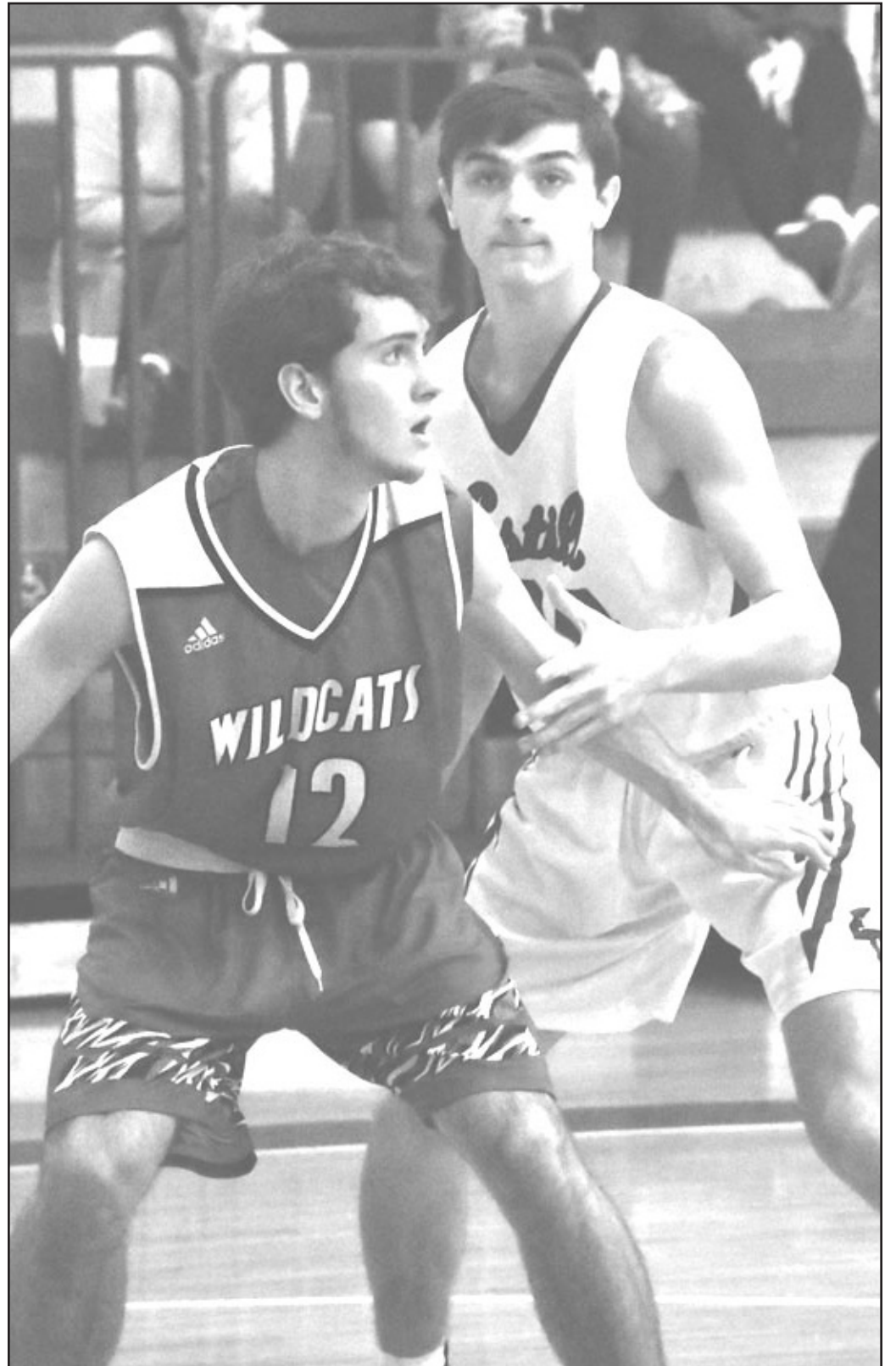
Estill Engineers junior Dyllan Long tries for a shot against Pendleton County at Irvine on Saturday.



Junior Will Isfort (#23, white) chases the Pendleton County player on Saturday in Irvine.



Estill Lady Engineers freshman Haley Angel (#32, white) puts up a shot over the Lady Tigers from Leslie County on Saturday in Irvine. She scored 23 points.



Estill Engineers senior Ethan Webb (#24) guards a Pendleton County Wildcat during action Saturday at Estill. The Engineers won 50-38.