

Lady Engineers Handle Barbourville 65-47; Eye .500 Mark

by **MIKE WISEMAN**
Estill Tribune Sportswriter

The Estill County Lady Engineers approached the Holiday Season with a solid .500 record but after two lackluster performances, the Ladies will have to work hard to gain or go above that mark as the old year ends.

The Lady Engineers' achilles heel(s), slow starts and turnovers, would rear their ugly heads in an 18-

point loss on the road to Rockcastle County and a pre-Christmas shellacking at home against the best team in the region, Leslie County.

Rockcastle 61, Estill 43

Stats: S. Danyeur 16 pts 5 reb, K. Treadway 9 pts (3-3 pointers), M. Flynn 8 pts 3 reb 4 blk, M. Bellamy 3 pts, A. Farmer 3 pts, T. Young 2 pts, T. Duechle 2 pts, S. Barnes 5 reb.

Leslie 69, Estill 29

Stats: S. Brewer 8 pts, M. Flynn 7 pts 9 reb 2 blk, M. Bellamy 4 pts, K. Treadway 4 pts, A. Farmer 2 pts, S. Barnes 2 pts 5 reb, S. Danyeur 2 pts 5 reb.

On Monday night, the Lady Engineers would play in the Citizens National Bank Classic @ West Jessamine and pick up a much

needed win against Barbourville. This victory would put Estill's record at 4 wins-5 losses and with two more games to play, the Ladies goal to be above .500 before the New Year starts seems very attainable. A quick start and taking care of the basketball propelled Estill to this low stress win.

Estill will face host, West Jessamine, on Tuesday night @ 8:00 p.m. in the

winner's bracket and will follow up with a third game on Wednesday night, TBA.

Estill 65, Barbourville 47

Stats: M. Flynn 13 pts 13 reb 3 stl, S. Brewer 13 pts 5 reb 3 ast 3 stl, T. Young 11 pts, S. Danyeur 9 pts 6 reb, K. Treadway 7 pts 2 ast, S. Barnes 6 pts 12 reb 3 blk, M. Bellamy 6 pts.

After the Holiday tourna-

ment, Estill will start 2016 with the season's first conference game @ Owsley County on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. I believe it will be the second game of a boy/girl doubleheader starting approx @ 7:30. Estill will then welcome regional foe Wolfe County on Monday, Jan 5th. JV action @ 6:00 pm, Varsity @ 7:30 pm. Come out and support the Lady Engineers!!!! GO BIG BLUE!!!

Engineers Finally Pick Up a Couple of Wins

The Estill County Engineers, coached by Jon Bentley, went into their 9th game of the season before the young, inexperienced squad finally picked up their first win, a 69-64 decision in overtime against Washington County.

They followed that with a second straight overtime victory, 64-61 over Marion County. Both wins came in the Elleman Contracting Garrard Holiday Classic played in Lancaster.

Estill finished that tournament 2-3 and was 2-8 before running into a tough Clinton County squad on Monday night, January 28th where the Engineers appeared to match up well but fell 58-43 in a game that wasn't even close.

Hot-shooting sophomore Caleb Bonny was 12th in the state in scoring with an average of 24.9 points per game before Clinton County, but the whole team had trouble scoring against them.

The Engineers were 10-4 down but went on a 14-0 shooting spree that gave them a 15-10 lead at the end of the first quarter. Hunter

Osborne had dropped in two straight and Bonny added one to end the quarter.

But it was a whole different story in the second quarter. Clinton's tough defense kept Estill from shooting and the Engineers' shots fell cold.

Clinton dropped in three 3's in the period and out scored the Engineers 17-0 to take a 27-15 lead.

Estill didn't get a shot until a couple of minutes before halftime when 8th grader Joe Benton dropped in a quick three to cut the score to 27-18.

Clinton County dropped in another three-pointer to lead 30-18 at halftime.

The second half didn't fare much better for Estill and the subs started rolling in with more than 4 minutes to go.

Senior Michael Abner got a couple of threes late in the game and several players including junior Kellis Barnett and sophomore centers Andrew Doty and Lane Doty looked good on defense but Estill couldn't get any offense going.

Bonny leads 2-9 Estill in scoring. He has managed

two 36-point games, one for 30 points and four games with 27 points.

Abner, Benton and Robert Tipton have been pretty consistent in scoring over the whole season and junior guard Larry Richardson has helped out on scoring in recent games.

The 56th District teams haven't fared well in 2015. Powell County is 4-5 after a 95-55 win over Menifee on Monday. Owsley is 3-8 and Lee County is 1-7. The Pirates have 1-0 district record with a win over the Bobcats.

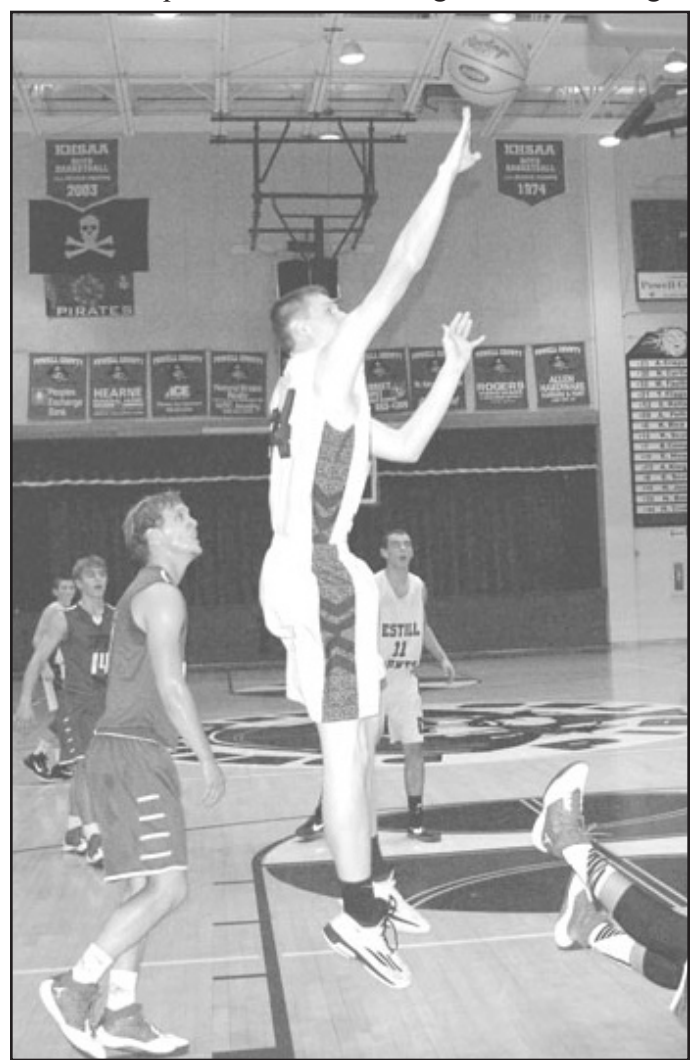
Estill continued action in the Red River Classic on Tuesday night against Tates Creek (1-9). The Commodores lost on Monday to Harlan County.

On Wednesday night, the Engineers will play Richmond Model, also in the Red River Classic.

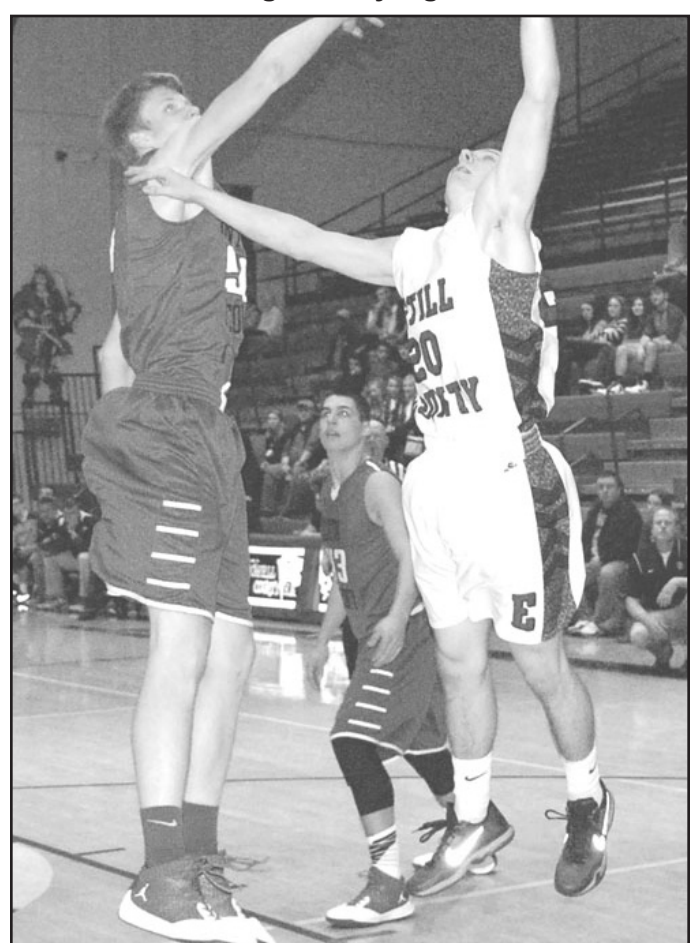
The first district game is set for this Saturday, January 2nd at Owsley County.



Estill Engineers Caleb Bonny (#22), Robert Tipton (#33) and Hunter Osborne (#11) look for a rebound after Bonny puts up a shot against Clinton County in the Red River Classic at Stanton. Clinton won the first round contest 58-43.



Sophomore center Lane Doty (#34, white) puts up a shot for Estill during Monday night's contest.



The Estill Engineers had a tough night against Clinton County on Monday in the Red River Classic.

Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky Highs (WKU's Doughty) and lows (UK 39-1) in '15, Kentucky had 'em



Bob Watkins

2015 had its predictable and not highs and lows.

Looking back, a few notable column items come to the fore. **Looking forward**, native son Dominique Hawkins grew some the ways fans in Kentucky enjoy most, and Whitney Creech in Jenkins is growing too.

Also looking forward we still wait to see if the NCAA drops a hammer on North Carolina for cheating or will the governing body be so disappointed (afraid?) with Tar Heels country, Cleveland State will be slapped with probation.

Glancing back . . .

• **Karl Anthony Towns** led Kentucky to a record shattering 39-1 record and another Final Four in April, but the season still fell into the record book alongside 1966 . . . 1971 . . . 1975 . . . 1981 and 1984.

• **Rick Pitino.** Last January I suggested Da Coach ought to move on to television. Eleven-plus months later, with an NCAA investigation into an alleged sex scandal at Louisville as backdrop, the prevailing Pitino news was whether or not he raised his middle finger to hecklers at Rupp Arena last week.

Of course he did. So what? Move on.

• **Eastern Kentucky and Western Kentucky** played basketball at Diddle Arena, December 1. A Thriller. Game was decided

on the last shot, a 3-pointer by WKU's Justin Johnson, Hazard native in eastern Kentucky.

Now, about a EKW-WKU football series.

• **Western Kentucky Hilltoppers**, on their way to a 12-2 season and bowl win, became the most entertaining college football team not enough of America got to see on teevee.

• **Kentucky-Louisville game** in Rupp Arena last week was college hoops at its best. Entertainment quotient - caliber of play and passion for fans was central to its success. Never mind coach technicals and Pitino's finger.

Reminds me, how fans in Kentucky, arguably the best educated basketball fans in America, are systematically fleeced every November-December.

• Directors of athletics Mitch Barnhart at Kentucky and Tom Jurich at Louisville, at behest of their coaches, schedule a parade of flyweight opponents not worthy of fans dollars. Priority for ADs? The gate. To sell out two of the finest arenas in the country is the goal, caliber of opponents doesn't matter. "Open the doors and fans will come."

• Louisville "stormed back from 16 points" at Kentucky last week before losing 75-73, is fair to say. But: "Kentucky backed up, frittered away a 16-point lead," is accurate also.

Because the Wildcats panicked, forgot how to counter all court pressure, they are guaranteed to face UofL-like pressure often in weeks ahead.

• **Irony Dept.** Kentucky fans were asked to "be classy" with Louisville in Rupp Arena last Saturday. Mostly, they were all the way to the last foot steps in the last moment before Louisville's coach stepped into the hallway from the arena.

• **Dominique Hawkins.** Thirteen points, a rebound, and an assist against Louisville was more than sum of its parts.

Suddenly, there was no looking at the bench for approval. Hawkins logged 26 minutes while fans witnessed confidence bloom, and Audacity.

Now a 21-year-old junior, Hawkins has been a best-seat-in-the-house loyalist. Played little, pouted some, confidence sagged, looked lost, and was recruited over (JUCO Michael Mulder), but stayed on.

He took four shots Saturday, all from distance, and all went in. One that bounced off the 30-second clock and didn't count, went in too. And, he scored his team's last five points.

Hawkins' experience is a video for Skal Labissiere and next wave of johnny-jump-shot types intending to be one-and-done.

The Hawkins' Formula: Have a dream . . . take a bite of humble pie . . . study . . . work . . . grow . . . learn to handle downers and coach-yell . . . have another piece of pie . . . grow. Then, seize the day.

Hawkins, who will be 22 in June. One day too soon, the ball will stop bouncing. Ah, the college experience.

• **Whitney Creech** - 50. 9 points and 17. 7 rebounds per game for Jenkins High School earned her a splashy 3-page spread in the Lexington Herald-Leader the other day and a feature in USA Today.

Much ado about Creech's work schedule, snack habits and community pride in her via a local store marquee.

Nice reward for WKU-bound guard-forward-center. But, I wondered, what about her Cavalier teammates? Where are names of those who, logic tells us, must be among KHSAA leaders in assists.

SPORTS PERSON(S) OF YEAR

Top five from here:

5. Kentucky's basketball team, 39-1.

4. Western Kentucky's football team 12-2.

3. Football coach Philip Haywood at 3A three-times-in-a-row state champion Belfry High School.

2. Katina Powell, Louisville sex scandal. A recycle of a Jerry Tarkanian classic: "maybe the NCAA will be so mad at Louisville, Hawaii will be given the death penalty."

1. Brandon Doughty, All American and college graduate, Western Kentucky University.

WORTH REPEATING DEPT.

• From April. After Wisconsin beat Kentucky at the Final Four, Badger reserve Vitto Brown got on an airplane and encountered an attendant who said she was a Kentucky graduate.

Brown tweeted a friend: "Walked on the plane with a Badgers shirt. Flight attendant asked if I played. I said yes. She said she bleeds blue. I said keep bleeding."

CORRECTION

Kentucky's ex-offensive coordinator Shannon Dawson, it said in this space last week will make \$550,000-a-year from University of Kentucky through 2018 or until he takes a new job. That's \$4,583-a-month, I wrote. Wrong! Friend John Roseberry in Elizabethtown red lighted my math.

UK's check to Dawson will be \$45,833 a month. Before taxes.

PARTING SHOT

With your New Year's party in mind, this: "Remember, life is too short to drink cheap wine!"

But let someone else drive home.

And so it goes
You can reach me at