

Napier scores 1,000 career points at Estill Middle

Scoring a thousand points in a basketball career is quite an accomplishment and very few reach that plateau in either the middle school or the high school ranks. But, another Estill County Middle School ballplayer reached that level a couple of weeks ago just as the season ended.

Several game cancellations caused by bad weather nearly denied Landon Napier from making that goal in middle school, but he finally reached his thousand points and got 13 extra during the last game of the season for a total of 1,013 in his three seasons at ECMS.

It was hard work and determination that helped Napier reach that goal. His 8th grade coach Seth Martin says, "Landon is one of the hardest working players I have ever coached. He is always working on some aspect of his game. He is always willing to put extra time in the gym to improve himself."

But, Landon had an extra incentive to work harder at

his game. He lost his grandpa in November of his 7th grade year. Landon's mother, Angie Napier said Landon "wanted to thank the Good Lord for making it (the thousand points) possible, and he said that he dedicated the last season to his 'Pappy Don' before the season started."

Pappy Don came to watch every game, Landon's 6th grade year but missed most of his games his 7th grade year due to being sick. Angie says Landon's favorite memory recalled on 8th grade night was of "seeing his Pappy at every game his 6th grade year."

Donald Napier was a basketball player himself, playing at Lee's Junior College in Jackson, Kentucky. A hero in the family might just be the incentive for Landon to work toward playing in college himself. Landon tells his mother he is already 6 foot, but she says, "I think he's stretching it a bit."

Six-foot or not, Landon is no doubt a talented athlete and should do well in high school and maybe make an-

other thousand-points for his Pappy Don. He was nearly unstoppable during the championship game of the 56th District and scored 29 points to lead Estill to a victory over Lee County. He had earlier that day scored 20 against Powell County.

Like most of Estill County's athletes, Landon is appreciative of his parents, An-

gie and Rodney, and others who helped him and "wants to thank his coaches and teammates for making it (the thousand points) possible, and for family and friends that have supported him."

Coach Martin adds, "I am very proud of Landon and this tremendous accomplishment." His Pappy Don would have been very proud too!



Estill 8th grade coach Seth Martin congratulates Landon Napier who scored a career 1,013 points in middle school.



Estill Engineers senior guard Kevin Richardson #5 puts up a shot against the Wolfe County Wolves on Saturday.



Landon Napier dedicated his 8th grade basketball season to his Pappy Don who passed away in November, 2016.



Estill senior Andrew Doty shows his range at the top of the key after just putting in two straight 3-point shots.

Estill girls 4th/5th are runner-up in Richmond

The 4th/5th Estill girls placed runner-up in the Full Throttle Valentines Classic in Richmond, Kentucky, this past weekend. They lost to an undefeated Corbin Magic team in the championship game. No team this year has come closer than 18 points of beating the Magic. In the championship game, Estill got out to a slow start, finding themselves trailing 22-7 at halftime. Estill's defense kicked in and the girls fed off the energy of the fans in the second half. They clawed their way back in the game with a 13-4 run but fell short as the buzzer sounded. Estill ended up losing 26-20; playing the Magic closer than any team has this season. Estill was led in scoring by Jayci Long with 13, followed by Ava Hale with 4 and Kadara Skinner with 3.

The team is coached by Shaun Hale with assistant coach Larry Tiller.



Estill County 4th-5th Grade -- Runner-Up in the Full Throttle Valentines Classic. Left to right, Callee Snowden, Miley Wilburn, Jadelyn Neal. Back row, assistant coach Larry Tiller, Ava Hale, Kadara Skinner, Jayci Long, Mila Walling, Lexi Tiller and head coach Shaun Hale. (Photo courtesy of Shaun Hale)

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