

Final four puts crown jewel on diamond life

State final four

At UK's Cliff Hagan Stadium
Thursday

5 p.m. —
Ballard (36-2-1)
vs. Boyd County
(32-7)

7 p.m. —
Henderson
County (31-7)
vs. Nicholas
County (32-6)

Friday
6 p.m. —
Championship
Tickets
\$5 (free for 6
and under)
Radio
WSAI-AM 1580

By Mike Fields

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

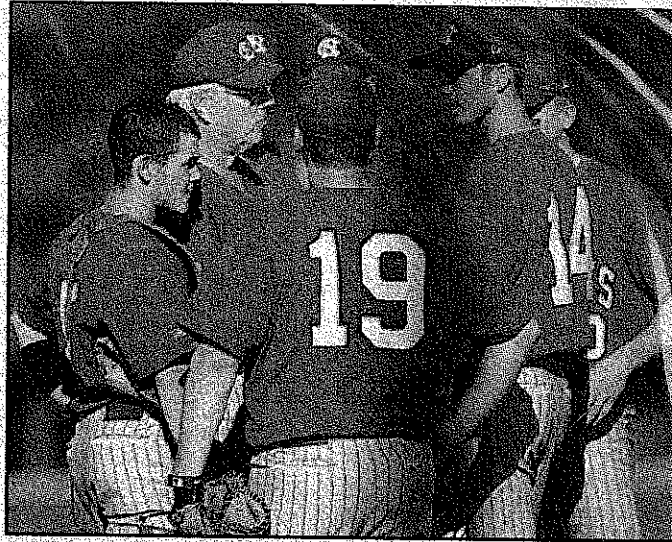
In baseball, wishes do come true, dedication is rewarded and nice guys do finish first, or at least make it to the state final four in the twilight of their careers.

Nicholas County Coach Billy Anderson is proof that the game of hard knocks has a soft heart.

"A few years ago I said I wished I could go to the state just one time before I got out of coaching," Anderson said. "I didn't know if it could ever happen, but I sure wished it could."

Last week, when Nicholas County catcher Seth Saunders smacked a solo homer in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Bluejackets a 6-5 victory over Pulaski County in the Section 3 championship game, Anderson's wish came true.

"When that little guy was rounding



Billy Anderson, Nicholas County's coach, told school officials months ago that next season would be his last. His team has taken him to the final four for the first time this year.

MARK CORNELISON/
STAFF

second, on his way to third, it finally hit me that, my gosh, we're going to the final four," Anderson said. "It was an unreal feeling."

Nicholas County, sporting a school-record 32 wins, takes on Henderson County in the state semifinals Thursday night at UK's Cliff Hagan Stadium.

"It's been pretty exciting for all of us," Anderson said. "On the trip home from the sectional, there was a world of cars following our bus, we were met at the county line by a fire truck, sheriff's car and ambulance, and they paraded

us through (Carlisle). We woke everybody up in town. It was great."

Anderson, 63, has lived a full baseball life.

He is best known as Nicholas County's longtime coach, winner of 551 games in 32 years, and a charter member of the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

But his Bluejackets coaching career represents only part of his involvement in the game.

He played for Nicholas County's first

See **BASEBALL, D5**

BASEBALL: Coach's wish fulfilled

From Page D1

baseball team in 1953. He went on to have a standout pitching career at Morehead State and, along with Steve Hamilton, helped the Eagles win their first Ohio Valley Conference championship in 1957.

Anderson played amateur baseball in the old Bluegrass League until he was 37, and along the way counted among his teammates future major leaguers Woody Fryman and Doug Flynn.

Larry Allison, who grew up in Carlisle and caught Anderson in the Bluegrass League, remembers him as a "Nicholas County folk hero" and a "fantastic" pitcher.

"He threw sidearm and was real tough on hitters," Allison said. "Billy's the kind of guy who could tell you today what the count was when somebody got a home run off him in 1954. He was a real competitor ... and still is."

Allison, now baseball coach at Clark County, speaks from experience. His Cardinals lost to Nicholas County in the 10th Region finals.

"I hate to lose, but losing to Billy took a lot of the edge off," Allison said. "There's not a nicer guy in the game."

That opinion is seconded by Steve Anderson, the oldest of Billy Anderson's three sons.

"Dad getting to the final four is just awesome," said Steve, who coaches East Jessamine. "It couldn't happen to a better person. He paid his dues and worked so hard for so long, this is like a reward for all he's done."

It chafes Billy Anderson when people suggest that Nicholas County came out of nowhere to win the sectional.

"We've had a lot of real good teams at Nicholas County over the years," he said. "You don't win more than 500 games if you don't have a lot of good teams. We were runner-up in the region (to Harrison County) in 1988 and

'92, and we won 29 games in '91 but got beat in the first round of the district (by Harrison County).

"We've just had the bad luck to run up against Harrison County, and everybody knows how good a program they've got."

It looked as if the Bluejackets might have the same misfortune this year. After beating Bourbon County and its ace James Rodriguez in a riveting 10-inning district semifinal, Nicholas County got flattened by Harrison County 19-1 in the district finals.

But instead of crashing back to earth after that loss, the Bluejackets regrouped and swept through the regional and sectional behind the strong pitching of Shane Smith and Josh Fryman, timely hitting and some spectacular defense.

It seemed as if Nicholas County was kissed by kismet.

With his Bluejackets trailing Pulaski County 5-2 going into the bottom of the fifth inning, Anderson, who had been coaching first base, switched places with third-base coach Travis Sims. "I told Travis, 'You get 'em on, and I'll see if I can get 'em in,'" Anderson said.

Nicholas County scored three

times in the fifth to tie the game.

As the teams battled into the ninth, the Bluejackets looked to be in dire straits. Fryman, their starter, was in his last inning on the mound under high school rules that limit a pitcher to nine innings in one day. Pulaski County loaded the bases with two outs, and Robbie Blanton, its best clutch hitter, sent a grounder up the middle that looked like a run-scoring single.

But second baseman Davey Anderson, the coach's youngest son, took a dive into the dirt, came up with the ball and lobbed it to shortstop Jay Grant for the force-out at second to end the inning.

"Davey making that play, that had to be fate," Steve Anderson said.

Then in the bottom of the ninth, Saunders, a slightly built 5-foot-7 sophomore, belted his game-winning blast.

"If Seth hadn't hit that homer, I don't know if we could've won," Billy Anderson said. "I guess maybe it was just meant to be."

Months ago Anderson told school officials that next season will be his last as Nicholas County coach. Little did he know then that his swan song would come after the sweetest sounding melody of his life: "My gosh, we're going to the final four."

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION BASEBALL CAREER COACHING WINS LEADERS

(Updated 1/15/14)

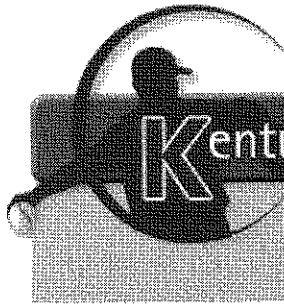
Totals are entering 2014 Season.

Most Coaching Wins – Career (Min. 475)

Active	Name	School	Years	Wins-Losses-Ties	Pct.	2013 Record
*	Bill Miller	Pleasure Ridge Park	34	1015-264-0	79.4%	38-7
	Larry Gumm	Green County	44	1006-493-0	67.1%	-
*	Mac Whitaker	Harrison County	36	987-288-0	77.4%	25-8
	Don Richardson	Madison Central	35	952-157-0	85.8%	-
*	Bob Mantooth	Webster County, Apollo	37	867-417-2	67.5%	29-9
*	Bill Krumplebeck	Covington Catholic	37	864-379-0	69.5%	23-14
*	Jody Hamilton	Raceland, Boyd County, West Jessamine	31	802-322-0	71.4%	25-11
	Charlie Adkins	Paintsville	33	785-316-0	71.3%	-
	Tom McAnally	Doss, Bishop David, Holy Cross (Louisville)	32	710-350-0	67.0%	-
	Bill Wayne	Henderson County	32	702-405-3	63.2%	-
	Charles Taylor	Somerset	39	702-206-3	77.1%	-
	G.J. Smith	South Laurel	28	696-232-0	75.0%	-
*	Greg Shelton	Franklin-Simpson, Russellville	28	660-247-2	72.7%	17-16
	Ron Myers	Elizabethtown	27	654-287-3	69.4%	-
*	Sam Royse	Glasgow	29	647-324-1	66.6%	22-15
	Jack Hicks	Owensboro	22	606-196-0	75.6%	-
	Jim Mizell	Lone Oak	35	594-383-1	60.7%	-
*	C.M. Maxwell	Dixie Heights	30	590-370-0	61.5%	27-13
	Billy K. Anderson	Nicholas County	39	579-420-0	58.0%	-
	John Finn	Simon Kenton	33	552-432-1	56.0%	-
	Gary Bartlett	Daviess County	23	547-213-0	72.0%	-
	Earl V. Driskell Jr.	(Iroquois, Ahrens Trade, Male, South Oldham)	34	546-330-3	62.1%	-
	Randy Keeton	Lawrence County	25	523-319-0	62.1%	-
	Larry Conrad	Bourbon County	27	519-292-0	64.0%	-
	Larry Hardin	Rowan County	26	517-322-0	61.6%	-
	J.P. Kouns	East Carter	23	511-298-0	63.2%	-
	Dave Camic	Danville, Boyle County	21	508-159-1	76.0%	-
	Gary Hammonds	Knott County Central	25	497-304-0	62.0%	-

-Only coaching wins at Kentucky Schools and at the varsity level are recognized.

**-active*



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Name: Adkins, Charlie
School: Paintsville
Association: Head Coach
Record: 785-316
Tenure: 33 years
Comments:

Name: Anderson, Billy
School: Nicholas County
Association: Head Coach
Record: 579-420
Tenure: 39 years
Comments:

Name: Conrad, Larry
School: Bourbon County
Association: Head Coach
Record: 519-292
Tenure: 27 years
Comments:

Name: Fields, Mike
School:
Association: Lexington Herald-Leader Sports Writer
Record:
Tenure: 30+ years
Comments:

Name: Gumm, Larry
School: Green County
Association: Head Coach
Record: 1006-485
Tenure: 44 years
Comments:

Name: Hicks, Jack
School: Owensboro
Association: Head Coach
Record: 606-196
Tenure: 22 years

Fleming County - 3

Charlie Brown * 1949-53
Clay Evans * 1948-52
Robbie Graham * 1984-1987

Pendleton County - 2

Talbert Turner * 1980-84
Bobby Wyatt * 1967-70

Paris - 6

Eugene Cain * 1948-51
Basil Hayden * 1915-18
Gayle Rose * 1947-50
Terrance Brooks * 1982-85
Chuck Redwine * 1983-87
Bill Gaines * 1967-70

Bracken County - 1

Larry Wood * 1952-55

St. Patrick - 2

Jay Gast * 1978-81
Tim Purdon * 1972-75

Clark County - 2

Larry Gay * 1966-69
Steve Scheurman * 1984-87

Bourbon County - 6

Bill Case * 1951-54
Jim LeMaster * 1961-64
Jeff Royce * 1981-84
Jack Tucker * 1960-63
Craig Summers * 1975-78
Craig Jefferson * 1972-75

Harrison County - 4

Toke Coleman * 1963 - 66
Keller Works * 1959-62
Phillip Wagoner * 1961-64
Billy Custard * 1974 -77

Tollesboro-1

Chris Harrison * 1987-1991

Estill County-1

Brian Kiser * 1989-1992

10TH REGION HALL OF FAME COACHES

Maysville

Earle D. Jones * 1931-55
Woodie Crum * 1956-61
Tom Creamer * 1969-1974

Fee

John Fields * 1943- 67

Morgan

Richard Gullick

Mason County

Allen Feldhaus * 1975-91

Jim Mitchell * 1966-73

Brooksville
Herman Hale

Nicholas County
Billy Anderson

Fleming County
Bob Hall
Glennon Ison

Tollesboro
Alan Bane * 1960-83

Augusta
W.H. Hanson

Bourbon County
Bob Barlow

Falmouth
Cecil Hellard

Paris
Blanton Collier
Jimmie Rose
Irvine
Joe Ohr

Earl Redwine
Mark Crain

Bracken County
Jarvis Parsley

Mt. Sterling
J.B. Cunningham

Paris Western
William Reed

Bath County
Julian Cunningham
Gary Taylor

MMI
Captain James Rees

Harrison County
Jock Sutherland
Jerry Jenkins *
Virgil Jenkins

Clark County
Harry Dinsmore
Tom Harper
Lake Kelly

Guy Strong

Pendleton County
Phillip Wood

Cynthiana
Kelly B. Stanfield

10TH REGION HALL OF FAME CONTRIBUTORS

Mason County
Fred Chumbler - Time Keeper
Billy Hitt - Scorekeeper
Tony Pogue - Scorekeeper
Ann Porter - Hospitality Room Hostess

Terry Stanfield-Ticket Manager
Danny Weddle-WFTM Radio Announcer

Clark County
Dick Webb - Scorekeeper

Maysville
Laurie Caproni - Sportswriter
Arthur "Punk" Griffin - Scorekeeper
Elza Whalen - Principal

Bourbon Co
Wilson Barlow - Scorekeeper
Ray Poe - Scorekeeper

Brooksville
Warren Cooper - Referee

Fleming County
Kenneth Fern - Scorekeeper
Woodie Todd - Statistician

Pendleton County
John Griffen - Scorekeeper
LuLu Records-Fan

Cynthiana
Joe B. Hall - player

Montgomery County
Dan Manley - Radio Announcer
Ann Karrick - Girls Basketball
Bobby Joe Whitaker - Coach

MMI
Ben Pumphery - Fan & Coach

Estill County
Johnny Rison - Timekeeper

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KENTUCKY MEN'S BASKETBALL

10TH REGION HALL OF FAME

10th Region Hall of Fame Players

Maysville - 6

Jerry Calvert * 1950-53
George Cook * 1947-51
Gus Stergeos * 1945-48
Fred Walker * 1970-73
Allen Smith * 1955-58
Bobby Hiles * 1961-1965

Mt. Sterling - 1

Charles Ishmael * 1957-60

Nicholas County - 2

Ned Jennings * 1954-57
Daniel Brown * 1989-1992

Bath County - 1

Bruce Jones * 1974-77

Augusta - 1

Bill Kelsch * 1962-65

Mason County - 5

Ronnie Lyons * 1966-69
Allen Feldhaus Jr. * 1978-81
Kelly Middleton * 1979-82
Chris O'Hearn * 1982-85
Deron Feldhaus * 1984-87

Cynthiana - 1

Louis Stout * 1956-59



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<p>Ballard 8</p> <p>Jun 07 5:30 PM at Shelby Co. First Round Semi-State 2</p> <p>Anderson County 6</p> <p>Jun 07 8:00 PM at Shelby Co. First Round Semi-State 2</p> <p>Pleasure Ridge Park 4</p> <p>Jun 07 6:00 PM at Corbin First Round Semi-State 4</p> <p>Rockcastle County 2</p> <p>Jun 07 8:30 PM at Corbin First Round Semi-State 4</p> <p>Paintsville 2</p> <p>Jun 07 5:15 PM at Campbell Co. First Round Semi-State 3</p> <p>Nicholas County 8</p> <p>Jun 07 7:30 PM at Campbell Co. First Round Semi-State 3</p> <p>Henry Clay 3</p> <p>Jun 08 5:30 PM at Muhlenburg South First Round Semi-State 1</p> <p>Franklin-Simpson 5</p>	<p>Ballard 1</p> <p>Jun 08 6:00 PM at Shelby Co. Semi-State 2</p> <p>Ballard 4</p> <p>Jun 15 5:00 PM at Cliff Hagan Stadium, U of K State Semifinals</p> <p>Ballard 0</p> <p>Jun 08 7:00 PM at Corbin Semi-State 4</p> <p>Boyd County 2</p> <p>Boyd County 15</p> <p>Jun 16 6:00 PM at Cliff Hagan Stadium, U of K Championship</p> <p>Henderson County 6</p> <p>Jun 08 8:00 PM at Campbell Co. (9 innings), Seth Saunders HR in bottom of 9, Semi-State 3</p> <p>Nicholas County 3</p> <p>Nicholas County 2</p> <p>Jun 15 7:00 PM at Cliff Hagan Stadium, U of K State Semifinals</p> <p>Henderson County 1</p> <p>Jun 07 7:00 PM at Muhlenburg South Semi-State 1 Final</p> <p>Henderson County 5</p>	<p>Ballard 4</p> <p>Ballard 0</p> <p>Ballard 0</p> <p>Ballard 2</p> <p>Ballard 15</p> <p>Henderson County 1</p>
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Kidwell, Gary

From: Gary Kidwell [garykidwell@hotmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2010 2:39 PM
To: Kidwell, Gary
Subject: FW: Dawhares Hall of Fame

Date: Wed, 20 Oct 2010 11:19:43 -0700
From: danderson10@yahoo.com
Subject: RE: Dawhares Hall of Fame
To: garykidwell@hotmail.com

Here are some of the achievements of my dad's. I would appreciate anything you can do to help him get in the Dawhares Hall of Fame

Coached Nicolas County Baseball 33 yrs 1969-2001
39 Total years
Varsity Wins 579
State Final Four 2000
10th Region Title 2000
10th Region Runner Up 1989 & 1992
District Titles 1969 & 2001
19 District Runner Up
KHSAA Coaches Hall of Fame First Class 1998
Coached Nicholas Varsity Basketball 9 yrs
& Deming Varsity Basketball 5 yrs