## NOTEBOOK Scroggins' gamble pays off with title

**By Jody Demling and Jason Frakes** jdemling@courier-journal.co jfrakes@courier-journal.com mal.con The Courier-Journal

Unemployed for a few days in March, Ty Scroggins now can call himself a state champion

Scroggins left his job at Doss to pursue the position of head football coach at Central High School. The gamble paid off last night as he led the Yellowjackets to a 27-17 victory over Belfry in the Class 3-A championship game at Papa John's Cardinal Stadium.

Scroggins, a former player at the University of Louisville, went 22-30 in four seasons at Doss and didn't have his contract renewed in March when he decided to pursue the Cen-tral job. Steve Serotte resigned as Central's head coach in February

"I didn't have a job," Scrog-gins said. "My old boss (at Doss) said that if I was thinking about leaving that I needed to resign. I told him I wouldn't resign, so they didn't renew my contract. It was a gamble." Central athletic director Marlon Miller said he talked

with Scroggins before he left Doss but couldn't guarantee the coach he would get the job.

"I told him we'd interview and that the best candidate would get the job," said Miller, who credited Serotte for not "hanging around another year" when he had become burned out.

"I couldn't make (Scroggins) any promises. After the interview, I was totally convinced he could come in and do this."

Some Central fans became concerned when the team started 0-2 — losing to Manual and Male — but Scroggins stayed true to his plan of playing a tough schedule and get-



Central coach Ty Scroggins, who hugged QB Leland Banks after the championship win, left Doss in March to pursue the Central job.

ting ready for the playoffs. The Yellowjackets finished the regular season 5-5, losing their final two games to St. Xa-vier and Highlands, but they peaked in the past five week

"I heard people from (Doss) saying he's a great coach, and at first I didn't be-lieve it," Central running back Darrell Taylor said. "Now I be-lieve it 100 percent."

And Scroggins is 100 percent sure he made the right move.

"It paid off," Scroggins said. "I was told by some people that this was a lateral move, but obviously it's not. It's a jump up.'

#### **Central ends drought**

Central did something not many Jefferson County Public Schools have been able to do make a state final

Excluding power Male, the Yellowjackets became only the third JCPS team since 1988 to make a title game.

Waggener was in the 3-A ti-tle game in 1998 but lost 56-7 to Fort Thomas Highlands. Manual had previously lost 28-0 to Trinity in the 1988 4-A final.

The last JCPS school other than Male to win a title was Butler in 1979.

Male has won three titles and been to five championship games since '93.

#### A perfect '10'

Beechwood scored a 38-35 victory over Lexington Chris-tian in the Class A game to grab the school's 10th overall state title.

with Danville for fourth alltime behind Trinity, Fort Tho-mas Highlands and St. Xavier.

Beechwood coach Noel Rash said after the victory he thought about the two coaches that helped build the program. Bernie Barre won the school's first title in 1984, and Mike Yeagle won eight, including seven in nine years starting in '91.

"I think about Bernie and Mike, because I'm living off some of the things they were able to accomplish," Rash said. "We've got some guys on the field who are at Beechwood because of what they built. Hopefully we can continue that

#### Names to remember

The state championships normally produce a few names to remember for the future, and yesterday's first game was no different.

The Class A game showcased two of the best sopho-mores in the state, and both play for Lexington Christian. Quarterback Lucas Witt (6

feet 2, 175 pounds) and running back Domonique Hayden (5-8, 220 pounds) had solid games to end fabulous years for the Eagles.

Whitt completed 27 of 48 passes for 290 yards and two touchdowns. He did throw three interceptions but also had two touchdown passes. Hayden ran 21 times for 49 yards and three TDs and caught three passes for 39 vards.

On the season, Witt threw for 2,940 yards and 30 TDs, and Hayden ran for 1,356 and

33 scores. "They're going to be around for a few years," Rash said of the Eagles.

Jason Frakes can be reached at (502) 582-4046. Jody Demling can The Tigers are now tied be reached at (502) 582-7176.

Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

### Courier-Journal

https://courier-journal.newspapers.com/image/181781580

# How the Yellowjackets earned their wings

to state cnampions. Such is the story of Cen-tral High School, which won its first Kentucky High School Athletic Association

football championship this season after 52 years of try-

ing. Times are good for the downtown school — located

Central's road to glory a long one Belfy 27/1 for the Class 3-A title on Dec. 7. By lason Frakes prates@courierjournal.com The Courier Journal The Sourier Journal to search and the search of the sea coming the first African-American coach to lead a team to a KHSAA football crown. crown. Central has become Ex-hibit A for how the state's switch from four to six class-es for football provided op-portunities for more schools

Yellowiackets went 1-9 and were outscored 382-39? The one "victory" actually was a 46-6 loss to Manual, which later had to forfeit the game for using an ineligible player. "We were undersized, we

See CENTRAL, C13, col. 1

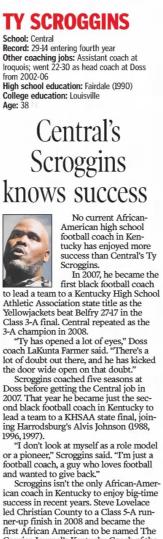


The Class 3-A trophy, hoisted by Darrell Taylor last weekend, represented Central's first state title in 52 years of football.

Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

**Newspapers**<sup>™</sup>

SECO at

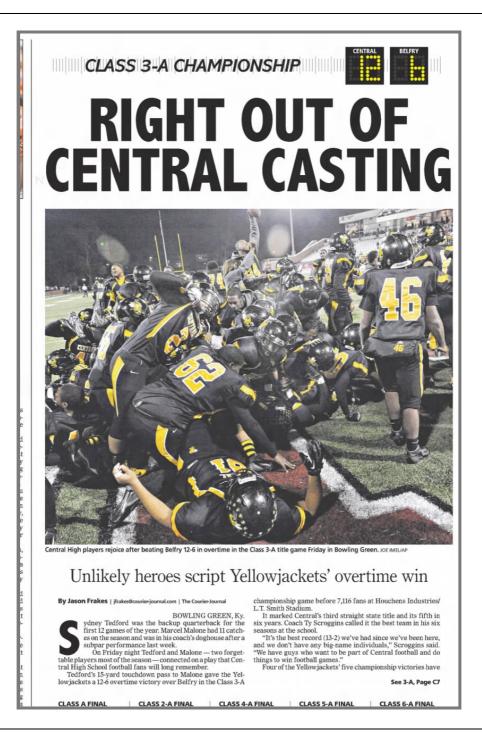


first African American to be named The Courier-Journal's Kentucky Coach of the Year. Randy Wyatt led Paducah Tilghman to the Class 3-A championship last year. "I think the administrators are real-

"I think the administrators are realizing that there are a lot of qualified African Americans that can coach this game — not just at the assistant level but at the head-coaching level," Scroggins said. "There are a lot of guys who just want to be recognized as 'Coach,' regardless of skin color."

Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

**Newspapers**<sup>TM</sup>



Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

## 3-A: Central beats Belfry again for title, this time with Hollywood ending

commend from Page C1 come against Belfry, including a 15-14 win last year after Tajh Mil-liken hit Cornelius Bolden for a go-ahead touchdown pass with 2011eft in the game. "It was a heck of a football game," said Belfry's Philip Hay-wood, the state's all-time winnin-gest coach with 362 victories. "I almost told (Scroggins) walking out there for overtime, 'Hey, you just want to call this one? But, no, you play to win. I feel for our kids. They battled all year to get back here."

They battled all year to get back here." Senior Deris Cox rushed for 102 yards on 17 carries and gave Central a 6-0 lead on a 28-yard touchdown run with 1:47 left in the first quarter. Sani Warren's 13-yard TD pass to Tony Messer tied it at 6 with 5:531eft in the second quarter, but Keilan Carr missed the point-af-ter kick. After a scoreless second half, Belfry had the ball to start over-time. On third and goal at the 5-yard line, Warren went left on an option play. His toss to running back Josh Robinson hit the



Central running back Deris Cox leaves Belfry's Cameron Johnson behind during a 28-yard scoring run in the first quarter.

ground, and Robinson eventually was pushed out of bounds for an It-yard loss. Warren's pass on fourth and I6 was incomplete. Central's overtime possession began with a 5-yard loss by Cox. On second down, Tedford saw the Eleftry defense shift toward standout receiver Devonte Yei-

gins said Malone was "taken out of the playbook" this week after failing to make a big catch in last week's semifinal victory over Monroe County. "We told him, "We can't throw you the ball in crucial times be-cause you're going to drop it," Scroggins said. "It just so hap-pens he caught this one. He has the best hands on the team." The touchdown reception was

pens he caught this one. He has the best hands on the team." The touchdown reception was Malone's second of the season and his first catch of the game. "Greatest moment of my life," Malone said. "Twe never had a feeling like this before." Tedford was the backup quar-terback all season before senior Tae'Shaw Gibbs suffered a con-cussion during the second-round playoff victory over Wayne County that limited his play in the final two playoff games. "The whole season I felt like I was never going to get in," Ted-ford said. "I thought I was going to have to wait my turn until my senior year and make something out of one year. I got my chance." Austin Hattlield rushed for 105 yards on 19 carries to lead a Bel-fry team that won the battle for

yardage (221-175) and time of pos-session (27:39-20:21). But once again it was Central earning the championship tro-

earning the championship tro-phy. "It means something special for this senior group because they're going out with a ring," Scroggins said. "We always talk about, 'Don't be that one group not to win it.' That's our whole motto."

Jason Frakes can be reached at (502) 582-4046.

entral 12, Belfry 6, OT 0 6 0 0 0 -6 0 0 0 6 -1 (kit for Cer Belfry Central 12 Central --from Warn Testford. A - 7,116. 28 run (kick failed), 1:47. Belfry - Messer 13 pass ick failed), 5:53. Central - Malone 15 passfrom 8 14 52-163 58 4-5-0 3-96.7 4-2 6-35 27:39 Rest down Rushes-yea 31.1 31-142 31-8-0 34-0 3-27.7 2-0 5-40 20:21 Passing yards Comp-att-int Rotare yards Pants-owg Furnities-yds Three of post. Robinson 4-) 102, Beason +25 -978 Res 27), C Maren 1417, Glibbs 4-6, Textura 1h 0-3 Maren 4-5-0-58, Central, Nedfard 3-7-0 Maren 4-5-0-58, Central, Nedfard 3-7-0 PAS Belliny, Messer 2-22, Robinson 1-25, Huddle Ser 2-18, Malore 1-15.

**Newspapers**<sup>TM</sup>

Copyright © 2021 Newspapers.com. All Rights Reserved.

ed from Page C1