

# Estill Lady Patriots Playing In A "Dream Season"

The Estill County Middle School Lady Patriots Fast-pitch Softball team has just completed one of, if not "The" best regular seasons in Estill middle school history. Their final regular season record of 23 wins and only 3 losses has kept fans cheering and coaches smiling.

After a season opening loss to North Laurel (5-4), the Lady Pats reeled off 12 wins in a row. A nail-biting 10-9 home loss to conference foe Caudill put the brakes on Estill's win streak. The Ladies pulled themselves together and went back to work, winning 11 of the next 12 games.

During the season, the Lady Patriots brought home championship hardware from three different tournaments, Clark Moores Lady Braves Championship Classic, Caudill Invitational,

and the Jackson City Invitational. ECMS finished the Commonwealth Conference season with an outstanding 7-1 record which gave them the number two seed for the upcoming Commonwealth Conference tournament.

The Lady Patriots offensive punch comes from three "veteran" eighth graders that combine to make a "Murderer's Row" in the middle of Estill's lineup. Kelly Lay, Kaley Covey, and Sarah Wiseman are hitting for a combined .434 batting average and have driven in 74 runs.

In the leadoff spot, Amelia Farmer's blinding speed has carried her across the plate 35 times as well as approaching the .400 ba mark. Corner infielders Taylor Duechle and Alyssa Sparks have seen their averages climb to nearly .300 as well. Taylor has

provided some power with a 3-run "bomb" in the Jackson City Championship game.

Eighth grade outfielders Lindsey Isfort, Hannah Spivey, and Savannah Mize continue to provide leadership with timely hits and efficient defense.

If we are talking defense, second baseman Lindsey Wood continues to find her glove lined with gold as she makes play after play all over the field.

Seventh graders Elizabeth Hardy and Kayleigh Angel provide solid defense and offense in their reserve roles.

Unfortunately, one eighth grader broke her foot before the season began. Taylor "Gibbie" Gibson continues to show leadership with her

encouragement and support.

We all know that pitching and defense wins games. Well, pitching has been the strength of this Lady Patriots team. Kelly Lay and Kaley Covey have blown away opponents with their heat and made them look foolish with their off-speed "stuff." The numbers will tell the story: 240 strikeouts in 130 innings pitched, Earned Run Average-1.20, Walks/Hits Inn. Pitched- .885. This pair has a combined 8 shutouts and 21 games allowing 2 runs or less.

Commonwealth Conference Tournament action began Monday night with the "B" teams taking center stage. ECMS "B" team began play as the number 3

seed in the four team tourney and traveled to Caudill. With a win, they could advance to the championship game, but the ECMS Lady Patriots "B" fell in a heartbreaker to Caudill, 6-5, in the Commonwealth Conference Tournament semi-finals.

The "B" ladies finish their regular season with a record of 9 wins and 6 losses. The future looks bright as these 6th and 7th graders continue to improve. Congratulations on a great season and "Go Get 'Em Next Year!"

Tourney action for the "A" team began Tuesday night @ Estill County as the Lady Patriots hosted Madison Middle. A victory over Madison would allow ECMS to host another home

game in the tournament. If the A-team advanced, the finals will be played at Faristown Middle School.

A world of thanks and congratulations should go to the coaches, who have led these ladies in the right direction. Thank You.... Danny Wood, Bob Young, Brian Covey, Mike Lay, and Keith Adams. You should be proud of this group of ladies.

Please, come out and support the Lady Patriots as they try to accomplish their season goals, Commonwealth Conference Tournament Champions!!

ECMS Lady Patriots "A" vs Madison Middle Tuesday 5:30 @ Estill Co. @ Kiwanis Park.

## June 14<sup>th</sup> Holes for Hoops

The Estill County Boys Basketball supporters will be hosting a "Holes For Hoops" Golf Scramble on Saturday, June 14th at the Estill County Golf Course.

Entry fee is \$50 per person or \$200. for a team of four. There will be all kinds of prizes.

Come out and support the boys basketball program at Estill County High.

## Woman dies following wreck

An Estill County mother died Friday from injuries that she received in a wreck.

Deputy Sheriff Randy Farthing investigated the one vehicle crash on the Winchester Road (Highway 89), about seven miles north of Irvine.

The report says that Lula Lutes, 76, was driving south toward Irvine on the Winchester Road around 2:03 p.m. The 2002 Ford Ranger she was driving dropped off the right side of the road. It went over an embankment and struck a tree.

There were no skid marks according to the report. The cause of the accident remains under investigation.

Lutes and her passenger, Ora Lee Blackson-Thomas, 84, were transported by ambulance to Marcum & Wallace Hospital.

Blackson-Thomas was pronounced deceased at the hospital at 3:11 p.m. Lutes was transferred to a Lexington hospital. Both women received internal injuries in the accident.

The truck was damaged very severely.

Blackson-Thomas was very active in community events. In April, she acted in a mystery dinner theatre by the River City Players. As a hospital volunteer, she spent many days there.

Last Tuesday, she had attended election school. She was planning to be a precinct worker in next Tuesday's primary election.

This was Estill's second highway fatality for 2014. The other fatality was less than a month ago, on April 10. Complete obituary information appears on Page 2.

## Man gets more charges when IPD serves warrant

A man indicted by the grand jury last Tuesday faces two additional charges after Irvine Police served the indictment warrant on Wednesday.

Sgt. Mike Gross served the warrant on Glenn Newton, 60, of Church House Hill, Irvine. Before entering the jail, the officer said Newton was asked if he had any knives, guns, or drugs on him, and he said no.

While being searched by the jailer, Gross said one packet of suboxone was found in a small baggie in Newton's underwear. Suboxone is a schedule 3 controlled substance.

Newton was charged with promoting contraband, first degree..

IPD Chief Brad Smith charged Newton with possession of a controlled substance, second degree (the suboxone strip).

Because of the new charges, an arrest warrant was issued on Newton by District Judge William Leach. It says that Newton has violated the conditions of MCR.

The Irvine Police Department also served indictment warrants on Justin Roberts, Michael C. Friend, Steven W. Gross and Bradley J. Young. For their indictment charges, please see article staring on page 1.

## Bob Watkins' Sports In Kentucky

Is it just me or is the sports landscape a screwball swirl of craziness?



Bob Watkins

Peculiar, the times we live in.

The sports landscape is a screwball swirl of craziness, and the NBA is still going with a draft still a month away.

### Observations ...

√ NFL Draft. A month ago Johnny Manziel warned the Texans they'd be sorry if they didn't draft him. A week ago ex-Alabama quarterback A.J. McCarron, (three national title rings in his pocket), and projected to be picked 16 to 35th, heard his name called at 164. Why the free fall? McCarron was said to be "too cocky."

√ Manziel is headed to Cleveland where expectations are open like the shark face in Jaws. Too, was 15 years ago Browns fans put weight-of-the-world on another rookie QB. Tim Couch. We know how that worked out.

√ Proof it's a slow time in college hoops, Bleacher Report ranked 14 "best college coaches without a job." Three have ties to the Bluegrass State. No. 12 is Billy Gillispie, No. 4 is Darrin Horn and No. 2 Rick Stansbury.

COMMENT: Horn is better off at ESPN, Stansbury is retired, and Gillispie should shop for another kind of work.

√ UK basketball sophomore-to-be Dominic Hawkins is in China this week, as part of a cultural exchange. THIS is education. The Richmond native will never be the same.

√ Ex-Wildcat Jodie Meeks made the last walk last Sunday on a seven year

journey to graduation at Kentucky. Degree in business and marketing.

√ Los Angeles Clippers owner Don Sterling apologized and begged the NBA for forgiveness last weekend. His wife said he's showing early signs of dementia.

COMMENT: Looks as if Russ Smith will be getting a bonus before the NBA draft, from FedEx.

Meanwhile, UofL Board of Trustees member Jonathan Blue offered a \$3,000 reward for the missing jersey.

√ Good news from a fellow who grew up poor in Mississippi. UK assistant basketball coach Kenny Payne has a two-year contract extension and new title associate head coach on his resume'. Payne will be due a million dollars, plus incentives.

COMMENT: Hunch here, Payne will be elsewhere by next spring. Head coach of his own program.

√ In Louisville, UofL announced another five per cent tuition hike.

√ In Elizabethtown, citing these statistics - UK returns 59 percent of its scoring (1,773), 67 per cent of its assists (300) and 54 per cent of its rebounds (872), and adds four five-star freshmen, will have nine McDonalds All-Americans, a Big Blue fan said, "Looks like the 40-0 talk before last season may have been just a year off."

And, my favorite today ...

√ As part of the pay-college-players push, Drexel University and the National Collegiate Players Association did a survey: How much would a collegiate player be worth on an open market?

Average for men's college basketball player: \$375,000. Average college football player, \$178,000.

If Andrew Wiggins had returned to Kansas, \$1.6 million, Johnny Manziel at Texas A&M, \$547,000.

No survey results for dollar value was reported for, say Breanna Stewart at UConn or Shoni Schimmel at Louisville.

working closely with security to further investigate this matter. The damaged merchandise was marked to discard since, for safety precautions, our employees are trained not to open packages with broken glass."

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No numbers either for college baseball players, women's softball, et cetera, et cetera.

NBC News report asked what salaried pay could mean for the college game:

"The bidding war for athletes would likely be in the millions," a professor of sports management at Drexel said. "However, I think it all depends on whether or not a players' association ends up representing the teams and players. The salaries could be effectively bargained to have some sort of minimum guaranteed salary for all."

Imagine, minimum guaranteed salary for, say George Fant at Western Kentucky or Cory Walden at Eastern Kentucky. America, I love this place.

### WORTH REPEATING DEPT.

Next date on the sports calendar, the NBA's June draft, brought to mind a Bob Knight assessment.

"If I were involved with the NBA I wouldn't want a 19-year-old or a 20-year-old kid, to bring into all the travel and all the problems that exist in the NBA.

"I'd want a much more mature kid. I would want a kid that maybe I've been watching on another team and now he's 21, 22 years old instead of 18 or 19, and I might trade for that kid.

"On top of it all, the NBA does a tremendous, gigantic disservice to college basketball. It's as though they've raped college basketball in my opinion."

### PARTING SHOT

Forbes Magazine published a Career-Cast list of America's best and worst jobs in 2014.

Best: Mathematician followed by college professor (tenured).

Worst: Lumberjack, newspaper reporter, enlisted military, taxi driver and chef. Last on this list: corrections officer.

And so it goes.

## Stickeler's Answer

8	2	10	4	6
4	6	8	2	10
2	10	4	6	8
6	8	2	10	4
10	4	6	8	2

Stickeler's Puzzle on Page 11



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