

# Estill Middle's first "Engineers" football team is 1-1

The first-ever Estill County Middle School Engineers football teams are 1-1 after opening against Powell County at Stanton with an overwhelming win by the 7th grade over their counterparts and a tough loss for the 8th graders.

This is the first year the ECMS football team is playing as the "Engineers" after being known as the "Patriots" for many years.

The 7th grade Engineers got off to a good start with a 42-0 win over the Pirates.

Estill scored quickly to lead 8-0, and on the next possession, the Engineers scored again, on their first play. Ty Niece got both of those touchdowns but his teammates had plenty of scoring later.

Noah Lutes, William Short and John O'Hair were among those who crossed the line to score. O'Hair intercepted a Powell County pass and ran nearly the length of the field uncontested that put Estill up 30-0 with 1:16 to go in the half.

Elliot Hardy scored several extra points attempts for the Engineers.

Estill picked up on their 30-0 lead after halftime and never looked back as several of the Engineers got into the game for the first time in the third and last quarter.

The 8th grade Engineers had a tougher time against the Pirates and fell 20-8 after dropping behind early. Coben Clem got the sole touchdown for Estill.

On defense, Trevyn Niece had couple of interceptions and Josh Ledford got a couple of tackles for a loss.

Fifth year coach Jeremy Niece said Logan Riddell and Dean Tucker had a good game on both ends of the ball.

Niece said the 8th graders should have won that game and blamed himself for three mistakes.

Coach Niece was a standout player for the Estill County Engineers high school teams who has been involved with coaching

football for 23 years plus six years as a player.

He coached one year each at Powell County and Oldham County and three years as a youth league coach in Estill County. He also assisted his father, Hoover Niece, and Buddy Arvin, both former Engineers head coaches.

In his first year coaching Estill Middle School, Jeremy Niece was 2-7 with the 7th grade and 1-8 with the eighth grade. In the past three years, the 7th had 6-4, 7-4 and 7-4 seasons.

The 8th grade improved to 2-8, then 3-7; then last year's 8th graders were 6-4. Niece said that squad, which are now high school freshmen, played well enough to make the playoffs as both 7th and 8th graders.

Assistant coaches for Niece will be John Clem and Steve Stevenson. Clem is the father of Coben Clem and has been involved with youth league teams for years.

Also helping out with this year's squads will be coach Niece's father, Hoover Niece, former Estill County Engineers coach and namesake of Estill's football field.

Hoover Niece is also the grandfather of two of the Estill players, Jeremy's son Trevyn Niece, and Ty Niece who is the son of Andar Niece and Estill County school board member Jenny Niece. Andar was also a standout Estill player as was another brother, Stanley Niece.

Ty's mother Jenny Niece also played football in the Estill's first flag football league. Known then as Jenny Jo Collins, she was one of the top players in the league.



Estill County Middle School Engineers assistant Coach John Clem gives some advice to 7th graders during a timeout at Powell County last Thursday.



Powell County's defense collapses on the Estill 8th grade ball carrier during action Thursday in Stanton.

## Golf team finishes 5<sup>th</sup> of 18

Estill County Boy's Golf Team finished 5th in their 16th annual high school invitational on August 6th.

Even though the team is mainly middle school kids, they show no signs of fear going up against some of the best teams in the state of Kentucky. The invitational consisted of 18 high school teams from all over the state.

Muhlenberg County from Western Kentucky took home first place with an amazing score of 286. Rockcastle came in 2nd place with a score of 302, Pikeville took 3rd shooting 309, while South Laurel placed 4th with a score of 312.

Estill was only 1 shot out of 4th place and 4 shots behind Pikeville for 3rd place shooting, a 313 team score. Estill was led by Freshman

Joe Benton, who shot an even par 70, good enough for 4th place overall.

Eighth grader Isaac Napier, played great all day on his way to his personal best score of 76. Shannon, we all can't wait to see that new putter!!

Another 8th grader, Cobbe Click held steady with a great score of 81, while 8th grader Andrew Elam also shot his personal best 86.

Rounding out the team was newcomer 7th grader, Caden Stewart, in only his 2nd tournament as a varsity player, turning in a score of 100.

Eighth grader, Noah Walters, played as an individual in only his 2nd tourney as a varsity player carded a 103. Coach Benton has been really impressed with his young team, saying they

come to practice every day, with a great attitude and a will to get better.

"They are way ahead of where I thought they would be at this time of their young careers," said Benton.

See photo on Page 15.

The Boy's Golf Team would like to thank their sponsors for this year's tournament: Twin Cedars Embroidery, Honchell's, Tamara Rose CPA, Citizen's Guaranty Bank Irvine, Davis Law, P.S.C., Craig Cartia, MD, CIME, Little Caesars Irvine, Click Farms, Caleb's Promised Land Mowing, Citizens Bank and Trust Co. of Jackson, and Ravenna Food Mart.

We would also like to especially thank the Estill Golf Club, and all the members for their continued support of our golf program.

## Fall sports open this week

Estill's high school football, boys and girls soccer and volleyball teams open this week following a week of scrimmages for some teams.

Boys and girls soccer teams were set to open Monday night at home against Bath County but rain caused the second game (girls) to be canceled.

Veteran Estill coach Greg Witt's boys soccer team opened with a 6-0 shutout at the hands of the Bath County Wildcats.

This year's team has "0" no seniors following the 2015 season when Witt had 11 seniors playing. Last

year's team went 14-4-2, winning the district over Jackson City 5-4 in two overtimes; then finishing as runnerup in the region to Perry County Central in the regional championship.

Candie McMaine in her 7th year as head coach and is assisted by her son, Andrew Hatton. They have five seniors playing.

The girls teams have enjoyed several successful seasons under McMaine. Her first two seasons were 9-10 and 6-12-1, but the teams have had winning seasons for the last five years.

Last year's squad finished

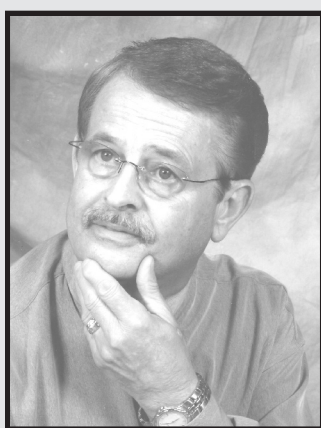
18-2-2, winning their regional over Letcher County Central, 2-1, before falling 2-3 to Corbin in the state tournament.

McMaine's teams have an unofficial record of 66-43-7.

The Estill County Engineers football team opens at home on Friday against district opponent Fleming County. Mike Jones returns as head coach.

Last year, the Engineers were 6-5 overall, finishing with a 41-8 loss to Bell County in the Russell Athletic/KHSAA Commonwealth Girdiron Bowl.

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