

# Racers roll over Bethel in season-opening win

BY PATRICK CONNOR  
PCONNOR@PADUCAHSUN.COM

Murray State Racer basketball officially returned to the CFSB Center Monday night, as the men's team opened their season with a matchup against the Bethel Wildcats. In a dominant display from buzzer to buzzer, the Racers would start their campaign in the win column, picking up the second largest home win in program history as they hammered the Wildcats, 113-37.

"The most consistent thing we've had [all preseason] is good energy, really good effort, and things have always been done up to our coaches standards. Guys have been held accountable, they've taken to hard coaching, and they've been working hard," Racers head coach Steve Prohm said. "The biggest thing I took away from tonight, forget the score, forget that we shot well, shared the ball well, it's that I thought we sustained a really good effort for 35 to 38 minutes tonight. Things are obviously going to ramp up on Friday, but it was good just to really get things going, and we'll go from here

On the night, the Racers were led by Kylen Milton in his Murray debut, as the transfer guard shot 7-for-9 from the field and 2-for-



PATRICK CONNOR | The Sun

**Murray State senior Kylen Milton takes a jump shot against Bethel. In his Racers debut, Milton led the scoring with 19 points, picking up an assist and rebound as Murray hammered Bethel, 113-37.**

4 from three for a 19-point night. Just trailing him on the scoresheet, senior guards JaCobi Wood and Terence Harcum racked up 17 and 16 points, respectively, while A.J. Ferguson flirted with a triple-double, finishing with 10 points, seven rebounds, and seven assists. Justin Morgan would also have a stellar night for the Racers, posting a career high of 16 points, shooting 4-for-7 from three points range while bringing in six rebounds.

The Racers got off the mark on the season through Harcum, who knocked down an early three to give Murray their first points of the

season, and a lead that would last the night. Across the early minutes of the first, the Racers pushed a high pace of play, quickly putting a double-digit gap between themselves and the Wildcats.

Transfers made a difference for Murray early, with Harcum burying another three alongside points from Milton, and a putback layup from Ferguson for his first points as a Racer.

Towards the midway mark of the half, Murray's outside shooting picked up, as back-to-back threes from Morgan pushed the lead past twenty points. Morgan would continue to play a key role for the Racers down the stretch

in the first, capping off a ten-point quarter with four late points, before a late three from Wood bookended an impressive first half for the Racers, as they took a commanding 54-19 lead into the break.

"It felt great, it was building a lot of confidence in me seeing those shots go down, and I'm hoping to keep on doing that this year," Morgan said, speaking about his performance post-game. "This team's come together really well, I'm looking forward to seeing what it is this year...We're playing fast this year, we're an unselfish team, and that's been really helpful."

To open the second half, Bethel would go toe-to-toe with the Racers, outscoring Murray 6-5 to begin the frame. However, the Racers quickly re-established their dominance with an 8-0 scoring run, with another three from Morgan pushing the lead past forty points. Down the stretch, the rout continued for the Racers, as their advantage continued to grow. In the final minutes, a number of Racer freshmen made their debuts, including an eight-point cameo from Jordan McCullum, as they closed the door on a 113-37 drubbing of the Wildcats.

"I just wanted to see the

guys play the right way tonight. We had some bone-headed turnovers, some wild passes at times, but they really tried to do what we wanted, did the things we'd talked about. We wanted to be fast, we wanted to be aggressive, and if you play like that, you're going to turn it over some," Prohm continued. "I thought they shared the ball, went to the glass hard, and didn't give up on any plays. Five minutes to go, we were blocking shots from behind, whereas some teams may have just let that go in. I was proud of them for that."

Now 1-0 to start the year, the Racers will face a stiff test this Friday, as they travel up to Pittsburgh to face the Pitt Panthers.

"I thought our fans were great tonight, I thought the energy was good, it was our first time this year really playing in front of people," Prohm concluded. "Pittsburgh's probably going to be sold out, it's going to be wild up there, so we need to know how to handle ourselves in that. It's always good to get out there, get in front of that, and I thought everyone handled themselves well tonight."

Tip-off between the Racers in Panthers is set for 6 p.m. Friday at Pittsburgh.

## SEASON

FROM PAGE B1

Trigg's defense fought back, holding the Tigers on several plays, but Caldwell's defense proved relentless as well. Luke Parker, who entered the game ranked third in the state with seven interceptions, picked off his eighth of the season, adding a huge momentum swing for the Tigers. While Parker is still a pick shy of the school record, he now tops the states chart for the most interceptions this season. Drew Stevens followed up with a 40-yard interception return touchdown early in the third quarter, making it 33-14 and igniting the Tigers' second-half scoring surge.

Lander's arm didn't slow down as he found Gus Fox for a 15-yard touchdown, stretching the lead to 40-14. Just a few minutes later, Parker's interception set up yet another touchdown, pushing the Tigers to 47-14. Then, in a critical defensive play in the fourth quarter, Layton Wall blocked a punt, and Roach capitalized by run-



JENNIFER HAINES | Times Leader

**Caldwell County's Daelyn Lander had a stellar night against Trigg County, putting up 298 passing yards for six touchdown passes and a 18-for-26 completion rating to help the Tigers to a 54-22 win over the Wildcats.**

ning it back for a 17-yard touchdown. This touchdown invoked the mercy rule running clock, solidifying Caldwell's 54-14 lead.

Despite a valiant effort, Trigg County couldn't overcome Caldwell's offensive barrage. Gude was a standout for the Wildcats, leading his team with 174 rushing yards, but multiple penalties and Caldwell's staunch defense limited Trigg's scoring opportunities. Gude did find the end zone in the closing minutes, rushing 23 yards for a touchdown, followed by a success-

ful two-point conversion from Brody Calhoun, bringing the final score to 54-22.

Defensive stalwarts Jack Roach and Layton Wall were key in keeping the Wildcats out of the end zone, with Roach racking up 19 tackles and Wall contributing 16. Caldwell's stellar defense, paired with Lander's record-breaking night, sealed their victory and secured a spot in the playoffs, where they will face Fort Campbell in the first round. Meanwhile, Trigg County's season ends with a 3-7 record.

## LADY TIGERS

FROM PAGE B1

ahead 20-19, but Caldwell called a timeout to reorganize. Rylee Thompson and Chevy McGowan put together an offensive attack with the help of White to claim the second set 25-21.

Henderson got their overpowered shots from the right side under control giving Caldwell trouble from the beginning of the third set, which allowed the Lady Colonels to take a 20-15 lead after trailing by as much as 9-6. Butts brought the Lady Tigers back scoring three straight with a pair of kills and a nasty dump to the left side of the net 24-24. Caldwell miscues allowed Henderson the final two points needed to extend the match into extra sets.

Henderson had all the momentum in the fourth set. Hard serves and confident swings gave the Colonels the initial lead that they turned into a 12-point advantage, prompting a fifth set show down.

Henderson rolled out



JENNIFER HAINES | Times Leader

**Caldwell County senior Brylee Butts bumps the ball to put the Lady Tigers in a position to make a play against Henderson County.**

to a 5-1 lead in fifth set but Caldwell battled back to knot things 8-8 on a Med Thomas kill. The Lady Tigers then went on to build an 11-8 advantage behind a pair of aces from Thompson. Caldwell extended the advantage 14-11 but a short run from Henderson spurred on an ace from Stott left the game decision to a single point 14-13, where Butts delivered the game winning block.

Butts led the night with 11 kills, eight blocks, and three digs. Thompson contributed seven kills, 11 digs, and two aces, while Benashka Thomas added five kills, a block, and six digs.

Kylee White delivered 25 assists, a kill, two blocks, and 10 digs. Mycah Riddle tallied 25 digs, a kill, an assist, and two aces. Chevy McGowan recorded three kills and seven digs, and Morgan Aikins finished with 10 digs and an ace. Madeline Thomas added a kill, five digs, and an assist, while Anna Giltz contributed six digs, two aces, and an assist. Maddie Cooper rounded out Caldwell's efforts with five digs and an ace.

The Lady Tigers are hoping for a seventh straight Second Region title, since winning their last regional championship in 2020.



JENNIFER HAINES | Times Leader

**The Caldwell County Lady Tigers stand at the ready, waiting for the Lady Warriors to serve the ball their way.**

## SEMIFINAL

FROM PAGE B1

contributed 27 digs, many of which key to helping HCA overcome Caldwell's dynamic offense.

Caldwell County finishes their season with a 19-10 record, but not without a commendable fight in the regionals.

Brylee Butts led the Lady Tigers with 14 kills and two blocks, while Benashka Thomas and Rylee Thompson combined for 13 kills and key digs. Kylee White set up the offense with 30 assists, and Mycah Riddle anchored the defense with a team-high 24 digs, helping Caldwell keep each set within reach.



**HUGHES MARKET & MEAT PROCESSING INC.**  
8705 Ogden Landing Rd.  
West Paducah, KY 42086  
**270-488-3556**  
Email: store@hughesmarket.com  
www.hughesmarket.com

OFFER GOOD Nov 4<sup>th</sup> through Nov 9<sup>th</sup>

**CLOSED SUNDAY**

Yes! We have GIFT CARDS!

WE ACCEPT EBT & ILLINOIS LINKS

PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

**4 GENERATIONS & 100 YEARS OF MEAT CUTTING EXPERIENCE**

**BEEF**

**KENTUCKY, ILLINOIS, TENNESSEE, MISSOURI**  
Exclusively only at Hughes Market, 90 to 150 days aged  
**AUSTRALIAN PREMIUM BLACK ANGUS RIB EYE LOINS!**

Rib Eye Steaks ..... **\$15.99** lb.

Tail - On Rib Eye Steak ..... **\$14.99** lb.

Whole Rib Eye Loins (Cut To Your Choice Free) ..... **\$11.99** lb.

---

USDA Select or Better Whole New York Strip Loin (cut to your choice free) ..... **\$9.19** lb.

USDA Choice or Better Whole Boneless Top Sirloin Loin (Cut to your Choice) ..... **\$5.19** lb.

---

USDA Choice or Better Whole Beef Chateaubriand 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 lb. avg. (Cut to your choice free) ..... **\$16.99** lb.

Whole Beef Tenderloin (Cut to your choice free) ..... **\$18.99** lb.

**HIGHEST QUALITY GROUND BEEF YOU CAN BUY**

81% Lean or Better Fresh Certified

Ground Prime Rib 10 lb. Roll ..... **\$3.59** lb.

Our Famous 81% Lean Ground Brisket ..... **\$4.39** lb.

96% Lean or Better Ground Beef ..... **\$4.39** lb.

1/2 lb. Chopped Sirloin Patties ..... **\$4.99** lb.

---

**PORK**

Pork Butts ..... **\$1.99** lb.

Pork Butt by the case ..... **\$1.89** lb.

---

**STARTING WED NOV. 6TH.**

Ozark Pride Super Trim Hams 18 to 22 lb ..... **\$2.89** lb.

Bone-In Pork Loin (20 to 22 lb. avg.) (Cut to your choice free) ..... **\$1.75** lb.

1/2 Pork Loin ..... **\$1.99** lb.

---

**POULTRY**

Fresh Boneless, Skinless Chicken Breast (40 lb. Case) ..... **\$78.00**

10 lb. Bag ..... **\$2.50** lb.

---

**FISH**

Pond Raised Shark Fin Catfish (SWIA) (5 to 7oz. Fillets 15lb. Case) ..... **\$49.00**