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SPORTS

•BEARS *Continued from page one*



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
3rd Region All-Time Scoring Leader, Bears senior, Ty Price, shown whipping a hook pass back into the middle of Grayson County's zone defense which held the Bears to 14 points below their season average.

ankle injury, for a three pointer within seconds of starting the game. Although the full-court pressure was causing turnovers, points were hard to come by early on. However, as the first went on, the Wildcats and Bears starting connecting blows.

Neither team could pull away from the other in a first half; it was never more than a four-point difference in favor of either. The Bears found themselves clinging to a two-point advantage at the half against the Wildcats, who were determined an upset was capable.

Throughout most of the third, Butler County identified themselves. They pulled ahead as much as 14 points; nonetheless, the Wildcats were not acceptable to laying down. Behind juniors, Tyler Wilson and Owen Ruth, the Wildcats clawed themselves right back into the game. Wilson made several moves to get into the paint and Ruth cleaning up everything he could.

Early fourth quarter, Edmonson County presented themselves with a chance to regain the lead. That opportunity

succumbed to an unforced turnover. The Bears kept pushing it back to multiple possessions from there out. Price, who shot 20 free throws altogether, would seal the deal at the charity stripe to end the game.

The 78-68 victory over Edmonson set the platform for the Bears to advance onto the third region tournament; however, in a matchup for the 12th District championship title, Butler County would have to face an equally-talented Grayson County Cougars team, who they split with on the regular season. Like the Bears, they are experienced with several leaders on the squad.

Jack Logsdon, a junior, scored 13 first quarter points and ten of the first 16 for the Cougars to establish the tone for the game. After starting the game 9-0, the crowd of orange were on their feet as the Bears fought to keep the game into single digits. Two, Case Hooten to Castlen assists, got BC within half-dozen; then, Coach Dockery called a timeout with over two minutes left in the first.

Grayson County came right back to hit a three-pointer following

the 30 second break. Following two freebies for Grayson, Briar Griffin found Curtis Murphy before Logsdon made a sick, and-one through all kinds of contact to cap off his explosive start.

Butler County managed to get down by as many 20 points in the second quarter when with around near the same amount of time remaining as it was in the first, Coach Dockery used his second timeout of the game; this one a full, one-minute timeout. Trevor Deweese responded with a three and Price would as well before they went to the locker rooms.

Grayson County was comfortable with the Bears scrambling to find a way to stop Logsdon over intermission. The home team on the scoreboard and number-one seed, hit five three's to start the second half to exhibit their versatility. Although down by 22 when Coach Dockery was forced to stop the bleeding with a timeout, his Bears came back out with purpose.

Things became chirpy, if it wasn't already,

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▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Case Hooten receiving All Academic Award for Butler County

Lady Bears' season ends to Grayson County



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Tight squeeze for Tinslea Belcher to not get a whistle here.

By **Greg Moore**
Banner Sports Editor

Butler County's defensive game plan was well executed in the finale in the opening of the 12th District Tournament in Whitesville on Monday night last week. Coach Lexie Belcher's players provided help defense on Breigh Jones, who was tightly guarded by Ann Marie Skaggs and Bailey Moore all throughout the game.

Ava Wilson got the Lady Bears in front with the first score of the game. Unfortunately, that would be the only time. Grayson County went on to outscore Butler 14-3 for the remainder of the first as Wilson could not draw a foul in the paint and the Lady Bears could not find a bucket elsewhere. Jenna Tomes made a nice feed where Wilson could get it off cleanly only one more time during the first.

Seemed as if fouls were tightly called at times; whereas, not so much at other times in the eyes of many Lady Bears fans. Maybe some obvious that were not whistled while touchy ones on other occasions stopped play from those watching the game. It did not fare well in Butler's strategy despite Wilson still pouring in points in the middle with two and-ones early in the second.

Credit to the Lady Cougars who made shots (44% from the floor and 32%

from beyond the arc) regardless of an aggressive attack by Coach Belcher's girls. The Lady Bears may have gotten the benefit from the charity stripe in the second, also. Nonetheless, Jones scored the last five points of the quarter to send the home team into the locker room up, 35-20.

In the third, the Lady Bears closed the margin just a little. Moore buried a trey to start the fourth quarter and it was the moment to make a run; but, foul trouble started taking its toll. Butler County managed to claw back within nine points late in the fourth on a Karrington Hunt three-pointer.

Ultimately, Jones finished off the Lady

Bears at the free-throw line, where she went 15/16 to lead all scorers with 28 points. Wilson, who scored her 1000th career point in the game, led the Lady Bears with 17 points. Hunt contributed ten points, just a bit more than her average. Skaggs, who would foul out in the fourth, ended the night with eight in the scoring column.

Joining Skaggs late in the game, Moore played her last time as a Lady Bear and joined her after they both gave it all on the floor. Moore, who recently announced she was staying locally to play basketball at Brescia University in Owensboro, finished the night with seven

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▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Carley Cardwell and Karrington Hunt during introductions to starting lineups.