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SPORTS

Bears fall in District Championship to Meade, 1-0

BY **GREG MOORE**
BANNER SPORTS EDITOR

The 11th District Soccer Tournament was held at the Grayson County High School this past Thursday and Friday. Butler County took care of Grayson in a 5-0 shutout in the opening game before Meade County struggled a bit to finally put away the winless Wildcats of Edmonson County on the opening night. That set the stage for a Meade-Butler showdown in the championship on Friday.

The Bears, who had spanked the Cougars all year, had only contested the Green Wave once on the season, which they barely lost (3-2) at Meade County. Butler was missing some players in that matchup and felt really confident about their chance in the championship.

Meade played extra-physical on the defensive end from the beginning while not getting penalized for many fouls, which may or may not have allowed better scoring opportunity for the Bears. Regardless, the Bears fought through the adversity and stayed within striking distance on many occasions. Unfortunately, BC

could not manage to find the goal.

After an hour into the game, about the 12-minute mark in the second half, Meade got Bears goalie, Landon Beatty positioned on his right side of the goal as they attacked. At the last second they slipped a pass opposite side for a wide open score attempt, which they did not miss. It was the only goal of the night as the Bears defense was ferocious all night.

The Bears have much to be proud of and will continue their season within the 3rd Region Tournament starting this weekend. It is uncertain at print release on who the Bears will be facing. One thing is for certain, they will have a tougher opponent (likely Ohio County or Owensboro) with the runner-up finish versus coming out of the district as the winner.

Congratulations to Landon Beatty, Carter West, and Jonathan Portillo on being named to the 11th District All-Tournament Team, which had to be extremely difficult based on the exceptional play of so many Bears. Best of luck at the region tournament to the Bears!



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Junior striker, Jonathan Portillo, one of the top scorers in the state, attempting to race down the ball to get a shot on goal to tie the game late in the contest.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Senior midfielder, Carter West, who is a jack-of-all trades for the Bears, being held off by the Green Wave player.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Junior James Gomez, who plays backup goalie when needed, shown here catching the pass to facilitate some action.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Senior goalie, Landon Beatty, takes off surveying the field looking for teammates after denying Meade County's attempt to score.

BCMS Bears Impressive on 8th Grade Night—Fall in Championship

BY **GREG MOORE**
BANNER SPORTS EDITOR

The Butler County Middle School Bears football team has been under new guidance this season. Head Coach Zac Johnson, who also teaches at MES, has focused on changing a lot of things. Holding his players to a high-standard was priority number-one for the first year coach.

“The young men who have stuck around have rallied around the changes, and seen success because of their buy in,” Coach Johnson stated. While the coach could not be more pleased how these young men embraced the new standard as BCMS football players, the results on the field have been fruits of their labor.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
JT Reid-Gay, a dynamic playmaker for the Bears, looks up field as a trio of Hornets swarm after him. Gay amassed over the century mark rushing and receiving the ball to go along with a touchdown in the championship.

After beating the Hancock County Hornets at home on 8th Grade Night a couple weeks ago, the Bears repaid the visit for the GRVC Championship last week. Unfortunately, the Hornets struck first

and then recovered an onside kick to help go up two scores, 14-0, near the end of one quarter of play.

Butler County would finally get an opportunity to run an offensive possession.

Quarterback, Bo Abbott, amassed a huge gain to put the Bears within the red zone. JT Reid-Gay, a focal point in the Bears' attack, whether

BCMS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

Blocking the Past and Digging the Present

LADY BEARS
TRIUMPHANT AT TRINITY

BY **GREG MOORE**
BANNER SPORTS EDITOR

The BCHS Lady Bears volleyball team traveled to Whitesville to end the busy month of September, which in fact, was the team's 26th match throughout the month. A month prior, the Lady Raiders had slipped out of Morgantown with a narrow win, three sets to two, over Butler County.

However, the mindset continues to change within the Lady Bears, who returned the favor, strolling out of the Trinity Horn Center with the

huge district win and their heads held high, and justifiably.

When the Lady Raiders came to BCHS on August 28th, they served 18 aces; whereas, only seven took place in the rematch on the 30th, last week. The Lady Bears put the ball in play while Trinity still brought a furious attack; however, despite the Lady Raiders successfully making 53 kills (almost doubling the first encounter with BC), it was an astounding 35 blocks by the visiting Lady Bears, who

LAD BEARS
CONTINUED ON PAGE 11