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SPORTS

7th Grade Bears Off to Strong Start

BY **GREG MOORE**
BANNER SPORTS EDITOR

The BCMS boys basketball got going a few weeks following the girls' start to the season; however, after only about two weeks in, games are heating up at a quick pace as the 7th and 8th have both played eight or more games. Even the 6th grade team has relished competition on four occasions.

Coach Dockery has been rotating many players throughout the games. Whereas the younger team has found its groove and won their last four games to improve their record to 6-2, the older group has not found the same kind of rhythm. Fourteen different players have scored for the 3-5 8th grade squad.

With a rotation of about nine strong, the Bears 7th get-up on their opponents defensively, creating turnovers leading to easy buckets in

transition. The group is fast and they have very active hands. Another strength, they have shooters. Rebounding is an area of growth, as a team, that they will continue to focus on.

Deklan Olsen, who torched Grayson County for 23 points, has been consistently leading the charge, averaging 12.3 points a game while playing tenacious defense. Another high-motor guy, Carter Franklin, loves to go to work around the paint. Franklin is netting 9.5 a night while never giving up on a rebound either.

Two guards for Coach Dockery's young bunch, Hudson Fuller and Talon Hampton, can get deadly beyond the arc. Fuller hit four treys in a 14-point effort against Ohio County after dropping 20 points in Brownsville to help boost his average to eight points. Hampton,

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▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
JT Reid-Gay corrals the high pass in transition after a steal by the Bears.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Carter Franklin readies himself to go up strong for a bucket.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Cooper Hack pulls up for the shot as the Eagles' defender tries to get set in front of him.

Young Lady Bears at Midway Point

BY **GREG MOORE**
BANNER SPORTS EDITOR

The Butler County Middle School Lady Bears have been playing basketball games since October 15th. And, after the month-long journey, the 8th grade squad owns a 4-7 record while the 7th grade team has achieved a 6-5 mark. Coach Stacy Phelps' teams are averaging almost 40 points per game from the older group and nearly thirty a night from the seventh grade group.

Point guard and catalyst, Brielle Belcher, who was recently honored with over 275 points scored for her 8th grade teams at BCMS, paces the team with 11.4 points per contest. Emmalin Mode, who has scored double-digits in seven of the 11 contests, is averaging 10.6 ppg on the season.

While Belcher and Mode get it started in the backcourt, Harper Hack and Tae Rothe battle strong in the paint, gathering rebounds galore. Hack (6.2) and Rothe (4.1)

are joined by Zaeleigh Russ's 4 point average to balance out Lady Bears scoring per contest.

Marley Phelps, Kaley Stevens, Jaycee Howard, and Callyn Smith all have gotten in the scoring column for the 8th grade team, also.

Phelps has the ball in her hands quite extensively in the first game. Her 3.3 average currently chips into the 27 points per game average for the 7th grade team.

Howard, who works

relentlessly down low, has been donating 2.6, nightly.

Russ, who recently had a 19-point night, has raised her average to over nine points per game to lead the younger group. Rothe, who dominates the glass in the first game, throws in almost six points per game, also. Brielle Olson (2.7) and Adeline Burden (2.4) round out the scoring per game averages. Aubree Morgan, Lola Dickerson, Everleigh Meredith, Nora Gabbard, and Yetzali Garcia-Cruz have all

scored in games, also.

Roles are beginning to take form within both teams as they continue through the second half of the season. Look for these young teams to continue to make leaps and bounds of improvement.

While the 8th graders are limited in numbers, this sixth-grade class has depth. Russ is one of those; her minutes keep going up in the later tipoff and rightfully so. Both of these teams should finish the stretch run strong.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Brielle Belcher pushes the basketball up the court as the defense tries to get back.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Tae Rothe, one of the Lady Bears' top rebounders, rips down another rebound for the Lady Bears against Daviess County recently.



▲ PHOTO | GREG MOORE
Emmalin Mode eyes her target as she approaches the rim for two points.

Jones named COY by NFHS



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Wesley Jones, longtime BC Archery Coach, has recently been honored as Kentucky's 2025 Coach of the Year in the sport of archery. His dedication to helping the local schools in the sport of archery has been paramount and second to none. NFHS will allow him to share the stage with former NFL quarterback, Chad Pennington, who was nominated for the COY in football for Kentucky.