

Polar Bears De-Throne Royals in First-Ever Meeting

Submitted by Will Jones, 10thregion.com

Neighbors Bracken County and Mason County met on the Brooksville gridiron for the first time in school history. The home-standing Polar Bears defeated their royal rivals of twice their enrollment, 35-21. “The kids love it,” said Bracken County head coach Steven Tarter after the game. “They were excited. A lot of stuff going on and there’s a lot of heat between us, but the game’s over and we took the win.”

First Quarter

The Polar Bears got off to a scorching hot start. They won the toss and elected to defer. Greg Benedict intercepted a pass from the Mason County quarterback, Camden Gregory, putting Bracken at mid-field. Daulton Tarter then rushed for a 45-yard touchdown, giving Bracken the 7-0 lead just two minutes and 30 seconds into the game.

On the ensuing kickoff, Mason County muffed the return, resulting in the Polar Bears taking over in the Royals’ red zone. Daulton Tarter came into the game with 3,966 career rushing yards, just 52 yards behind Tad Fisher’s school record of 4,018. At 7:11 in the 1st



Bracken County’s Daulton Tarter carries the ball.



The BCHS Polar Bears jubilantly celebrate their hard-fought win over the Mason County Royals.

photos by Will Jones

quarter, Tarter ran in another touchdown to help put the Polar Bears up 14-0, and make him the all-time leading rusher in Bracken County football history.

The Royals punted the ball away on their next possession, but intercepted a pass from Bracken County quarterback Greg Benedict. Benedict made up for it on the next possession. He broke through the Royals’ offensive line and stopped them from converting on 4th and 1 from the Bracken 30-yard line.

Second Quarter

With 8:09 left until the half, Greg Benedict connected with Andrew Kirk for a 30-yard touchdown pass. The Polar Bears were now up three scores, 21-0. Coach Tarter said he knew his team would come out strong because of the energy they showed all week in practice. However, the Polar Bears’ energy began to cool off.

Mason County finally got on the board with 2:13 left until halftime. Quarterback Camden Gregory scored on a goal-line keeper. The PAT was missed.

Bracken County fumbled the ball on their own 23. The Bears’ defense turned the Royals over on downs on the 13-yard line with 31 seconds until halftime. Polar Bears led 21-6 at the break.

Third Quarter

Royals running back Joey Staggs broke loose for a 68-yard touchdown run midway through the third quarter, making it Bracken County 21, Ma-



Greg Benedict of Bracken County throws a pass while being pressured by Jvion Tennel of Mason County.

son County 13. Daulton Tarter responded and extended the Polar Bear lead to 28-13 with a 55-yard touchdown run with 3:21 in the 3rd quarter. It was a much-needed score to stop Mason County’s momentum for now.

Fourth Quarter

Greg Benedict got his second interception of the game, placing the Polar Bears at midfield with under eight minutes to play. Bracken County was stopped and

attempted a 39-yard field goal, but the snap was botched. Mason took over the Bracken 31-yard line with 4:46 left.

Camden Gregory then threw a 70+ yard touchdown pass to Micah Payne, and the Royals converted the 2 points, making it a 28-21 game with 4:59 left. Mason County failed to recover the following onside kick.

Multiple Bracken County players, who were key on both sides

of the ball, began to cramp. This stopped play several times as Daulton Tarter, Jackson Whitten, Andrew Kirk, Ryland Tucker, and other starters had to come out.

Bracken County had to punt it away, leaving Mason County on the 8-yard line down by 7 with four minutes left. Mason County needed to go 92 yards to try and tie things up but they were quickly stopped. With his third interception of the night, Greg Benedict saved the Polar Bears’ defense and gave the Polar Bears the ball deep into Mason County territory with 1:37 left. “I was worried,” said Coach Tarter. “A lot of our key players started cramping and I was kind of nervous. That big interception just let me breathe a little bit towards the end and let us enjoy the win.”

Benedict’s goal-line touchdown closed the door on a Royals comeback. “This game goes to him (Benedict),” Coach Tarter stated. “He had a heck of a game. He had three interceptions, played good at quarterback, and ran the ball good. This is just a special group of kids, and hopefully we keep winning.”

Bracken County will head to Thomas More Stadium to face Covington Holy Cross next Friday. Holy Cross is coming off a 47-0 win over St. Henry, spoiling the Crusaders’ program opener. Coach Tarter said, “We’re going to enjoy this time with the team and celebrate this win and get ready for the next one.”

Mason County will host Montgomery County, who lost to Hazard in the Recreation Bowl 46-14.

Bracken Fiscal Court

A regular meeting of the Bracken County Fiscal Court was held Wednesday, July 23, 2025, for the purpose of transacting any business properly presented by the established agenda. Presiding: Tina K. Teegarden, Judge Executive. Present: David Kelsch, Danny Holleran, Debbie Mayfield, John Scott, Craig Miller, Sandy Ruf, Kevin Jarrells, Heather Brumley.

Let the record reflect that the Court Members received a copy of any Transfers and Vendor Claims and a copy of the Financial Statement.

Upon motion of Debbie Mayfield, second by John Scott, that the court approve the minutes of the July 9, 2025, meeting.

Road Department Update - Road Department Supervisor Stacey Florer gave an update. Bushhogs are running. They have been cleaning from the heavy rain and flooding still. They helped the solid waste coordinator one day. Someone dumped a bunch of garbage behind one of the recycle trailers behind Snappy. They went down with a mini hoe and helped clean up what they could reach. Stacey stated last week they cleaned up 2 couches and 2 recliners at the back alley at Foster, down where there is a bunch of brush being dumped.

Animal Shelter Expansion Update Tabled until drawings are received.

Ordinance re: ATVs on County Roads - This is being moved down the agenda for discussion when Assistant County Attorney Schumacher is here.

Resolution/Agreement CDBG Funding EMS - This is an amended agreement with the CDBG covid funding for the EMS project. It is an amendment from \$1,000,000.00 in funding to \$1,677,000.10. This is to approve the amended contract to show the additional funding.

Motion for approval made by David Kelsch, second by Sandy Ruf. Vote unanimous.

Perkins Carmack - The board has approved Perkins Carmack for the work at EMS, they were the only bidder. They extended the bid to allow the court time to seek the funding and do the things they needed to do to get this project up and running. Their bid came in at \$1,550,000.00.

Motion to award the bid to Perkins Carmack made by Craig Miller, second by Heather Brumley. Vote unanimous.

Pendleton County Search and Rescue (SAR) Contract - This is the updated contract, there are no changes. The contract price stayed the same at \$4,000. This is retroactive to July 1st. It will be from 7/1/25-7/1/26.

Motion for approval

made by Heather Brumley, second by Debbie Mayfield. Vote unanimous.

Sheriff Quarterly Report - Sheriff Boody gave his quarterly report. He stated the receipts YTD were \$329,195.00 and the disbursements were \$321,816.00. This is down a bit from last year, but the office received 2 franchises late so those will be reflecting on the next quarter statement. Other than that, everything is in line with where the office was at this time last year.

Motion for approval made by Danny Holleran, second by Kevin Jarrells. Vote unanimous.

Jailer Quarterly Report - Magistrate Miller asked Jailer Clos, do they need to start looking at a vehicle for his office in the next 12 months? Jailer Clos stated no. He doesn’t have the new vehicle on here, it hasn’t been in service a full quarter yet so he will have that on the next quarter.

ACO Hire Full-time - Magistrate Mayfield stated that the candidate that was offered the full-time ACO position turned it down. She determined that Saturdays were not going to be possible for her to work. Magistrate Mayfield, Magistrate Scott and ACO Heather Honan discussed the other options. They would like to make the motion to hire Shannon Boschert for the fulltime ACO. This would be at the proposed rate of \$14.48, with all

the standard benefits. This offer is contingent upon successful completion of all preemployment vetting procedures.

Motion made by Debbie Mayfield, second by John Scott. Vote unanimous

Award for fuel bid - Road Department Supervisor Stacey stated there was only one bid received. The bid was from Valor Oil, every Monday they find out the OPIS, average it out and add .22 to it. That’s for gas and diesel. This is the same process that has been used in the past.

Motion for approval of Valor Oil made by John Scott, second by Sandy Ruf. Vote unanimous.

Transfers/Vendor Claims - Following approved: General Fund Budget Transfer; General Fund Vendor Claims; Road Fund Vendor Claims; Jail Fund Vendor Claims; Dispatch 911 Fund Vendor Claims (Abstained: Judge Teegarden - due to a vendor claim).

Other Business:

*ATVs on County Roads Discussion.

*Tractor for Industrial Park - Gary Riggs addressed the court. He suggests buying a new tractor. He went to Riverside and got a quote. It is for a 37-horsepower, front end loader and 5 ft bushhogger on the back. Aaron will be able to mow around the lake on it and Gary can go through the trails on it as it will have tractor tires. They will put fluid in

the back tires. The quote came to \$33,170.00. Magistrate Jarrells suggested using the money made off the recycling trailers towards this. Judge Teegarden stated the recycling trailers brought in \$35,775.00. They charged a fee of \$175 so \$35,600.00 is what the county made. Motion to purchase the tractor from Riverside and to surplus the current tractor, to be sold at auction with Marshall. The funding that was made from the recycle trailers will be used to pay for the tractor at Riverside, was made by Kevin Jarrells, second by John Scott. Vote unanimous.

Adjourn - Motion to adjourn made by Kevin Jarrells, second by Heather Brumley. Vote unanimous.



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SCHOOL MENU

BRACKEN COUNTY BREAKFAST

Mon., September 1 - No school. Labor Day.

Tues., September 2 - Biscuits & gravy, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

Wed., September 3 - Pancakes, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

Thurs., September 4 - Sausage egg sandwich, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

Fri., September 5 - Doughnuts, cereal, fruit, juice, milk.

LUNCH

Mon., September 1 - No school. Labor Day.

Tues., September 2 - Pizza crunchers or hot dog on bun, french fries, mixed green salad, fruit, milk.

Wed., September 3 - Chicken fajita or hamburger on bun, refried beans, corn, fruit, milk.

Thurs., September 4 - Ravioli or corn dog, green beans, garlic bread, fruit, milk.

Fri., September 5 - Grilled chicken on bun or grilled cheese sandwich, brown beans, peas, cornbread, fruit, milk.

S.A.M.E. Excavation

Land Clearing
Yard Grading
Trenching
Dirt Moving
Septic System Installation
Basement/Pond Digging

STEVEN BISHOP
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