

Lady

from 1B

lowed up with another basket with an assist from Releford to close out the first quarter up, 13-10.

Mercer jumped out with a seven-point lead to start the second quarter, but Madison Central kept clawing its way back. The teams' full-court press traded steals until the Lady Indians were called for an over-and-back. Both teams were sloppy with their passes until Baker made a nice pass over the defenders to Carlton, who laid it off the glass, 19-14, with 2:28 left in the second quarter.

With a little over a minute to play in the quarter, senior Jordynn Miles hit the 3-point shot and Madison Central pulled within two of Mercer, 19-17. With 31 seconds left, Releford hit her first of two 3-point shots for the night, 22-17. Carlton blocked a shot and the Titans got the ball back but were unable to get a basket with time ticking down to the half.

Murphy hit another 3-point shot right out of the half and Coach Chris Souder admonished his team from the sideline for not guarding the three. Madison Central hit two more and with 4:22 left in the third quarter, the game was tied, 25-25.

Releford converted a steal in the back court for a basket to retake the lead. That spark was just what Mercer needed, and the team converted three defensive steals into points. Madison Central was able to hit a three in the last



The Harrodsburg Herald/April Ellis
Sophomore Alexa Wade looks for the pass in Mercer's season opening against Madison Central. Wade had 11 points.

seconds of the third quarter, but Mercer's defensive hustle helped them put points on the board, 33-28.

Wade hit the back side of two foul shots in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter. The team continued its defensive pressure, and the Lady Indians passed the ball for over a minute, unable to get past Mercer's defense. Releford stole the ball and went the length of the floor for the layup. Baker and Olive Frisby trapped Madison Central's guard, forcing the turnover. Fenwick then forced a turnover.

Mercer's defense sparked

an offensive run, and the Lady Titans gave their fans plenty of hope for what this young team can become. Releford dished to Baker, who was double-teamed but gave it up to Carlton for the uncontested shot. In the next possession, Carlton returned the favor and caught Baker as she came down the lane for an easy layup. It was perfectly timed passes for easy buckets.

Baker then tipped a pass that was recovered by Releford, who caught Carlton on the break for another basket. Wade got a piece of the action when she jumped the pass and fed it to Carlton on



The Harrodsburg Herald/SPORTS WRITER
Karis Wilham (3) and Maddi Baker (10) applied defensive pressure on the Lady Indians and broke up the pass. Baker had 8 points and Wilham had 1.

another break and basket. With a put-back from Baker, Mercer took the 20-point lead, 53-33, as time expired. They only allowed the Lady Indians five points in the fourth quarter.

It was a great way to start the season and a good indicator of the team's potential once they have a little bit of experience under their belt. Mercer only hit three 3-point shots, but several looked good

but rolled off the rim. It won't take long, and those shots will start falling for eighth-grader Karis Wilham, and when that happens, teams will be forced to guard the three and pull defensive pressure away from Carlton and Baker in the paint, which will be a mistake. A little buy-in into Souder's methodology with the confidence winning gives, and this young

team will make any opponent that underestimates them pay.

The Lady Titans have their first home game of the season on Friday, Dec. 5 against Western Hills with varsity tip-off at 7:30 p.m.

Stats:
Carlton 20, Wade 11, Releford 10, Baker 8, Fenwick 3, Wilham 1.

Bulldogs

from 1B

ner three with an assist from Lester, 8-19. The Spartans hit a three, and Burgin had the last shot of the first quarter with senior Briana Florian getting an offensive rebound that turned into a Lester layup, 10-24.

Sayre backed off the full-court press in the second quarter, and the Bulldogs had the first basket with Keith knocking down another three from a Florian pass, 13-24. The Spartans answered with a triple of their own and then the game got messy on both ends with multiple turnovers, 13-27. Sayre made two more free throws to finish a low-scoring second quarter, 13-29.

The Spartans went back to a full-court press out of halftime, rattled off 15 straight points, 13-44. Monson called a timeout and Sexton hit a 3-pointer following the stoppage, 16-44. The third quarter ended with another run by Sayre, who scored the following nine points, 16-53.

The Bulldogs scored an early basket in the final quarter when Lester grabbed a

rebound and threw ahead to Sexton on a fast break, who was also fouled, but missed the free throw, 18-53. Burgin tried their own full-court press with Sayre's starters on the bench. The Bulldogs' last two baskets came from a long two-pointer from Sexton and a putback layup from Lester, 22-57.

Sayre's defense and size was definitely a challenge for the Bulldogs, who struggled to get rebounds and advance the ball. Both teams made some mistakes, which is expected in the first game of the season. Sexton was a bright spot, scoring 12 of Burgin's 22 points, and it's good to have Keith back from her season-ending injury last season.

The Bulldogs' next game is home against the Garrard County Lions on Friday, Dec. 5, at 6 p.m.

Stats:
Scoring - Sexton 12, Keith 6, Lester 4.

Rebounds - Sexton 7, Jenkins 2, Briana Florian 2, Ali Rector 2, Lester 2, Keith 2, Hatfield 2, Beth Motley 1.



The Harrodsburg Herald/Wesley Bird
Sophomore Bristol Keith knocked two 3-pointers in Burgin's home opener versus the Sayre Spartans Monday, Dec. 1.

Burgin

from 1B



REGAN BARNES

that this Burgin squad holds themselves to.

"This is an extremely strong and talented group of seniors. Their leadership is part of why we are so successful. We have a big sister/little sister component of the program and I am able to give them free rein on this and trust them. It makes me so proud to see them handle their team by leading and guiding. It's special because I get to experience seeing my own daughter and her friends be unbelievably strong examples for their peers", said Coach Hatfield.

The Bulldogs cheer squad recently wrapped up their competition portion of the season with a fourth place finish in Game Day Region. Coach Hatfield was proud of her squad and their error free routine's score did not reflect their expectations.



MORGAN BURKE

"We had an amazing performance at the KHSAA competition this year. My girls hit everything without any major mistakes and really stood out. They performed exactly how I asked them too. Our region is tough and we had some really good competition. We walked away with fourth in Game Day Region, not at all what we hoped to get based on our performance quality, but that is how competition goes", said Coach Hatfield.

Burgin hopes to find another opportunity to compete in the beginning of the year, but for now they transition to being a traditional game day cheer team. Their goals this season is to improve and add more to their sideline routine "We hope to continue getting better with crowd engagement by adding new time out cheers and dances



KATE HATFIELD

that are fun and easy for the fans to yell with us", said Coach Hatfield.

The Burgin cheer program is about more than cheering and they pride themselves on serving the community focusing on impact more than notoriety. In August they helped set up and worked a booth at Open House, they offered a free interactive booth for kids at Pioneer Days, partnered with Burgin FRYSC to pack the community Thanksgiving food boxes and will be working with them at the Annual Christmas Social in December.

Another pillar of the program is inspiring the next generation with the Jr Pro Cheer mentoring. This is where the high school cheerleaders teach and coach the elementary age group every Saturday morning for the Jr



TAYLOR ISAACS

Pro Basketball and Cheer league in the winter. Coach Hatfield gives credit to her girls for the hard work they put in on and off the court.

"Seeing them put time into others and watching them grow from this is my favorite part of coaching them. This really is an extraordinary group of girls. Their personalities and strengths are so diverse but come together to make such a great cheer family. We certainly could not do it all without the help of assistant coach Sarah Coots, a former Burgin Cheerleader, and supportive parents", said Coach Hatfield

Burgin cheer will be back on their home court for the first time cheering on the Bulldogs boys basketball team versus the Model Spartans this Thursday, Dec. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Notice of Self Storage Sale
Please take notice Storage4Harrodsburg located at 1785 Louisville Rd. Harrodsburg KY 40330 intends to hold a public sale to sell the property stored in the following units stored at the Facility. The public sale will occur as an online auction via www.lockerfox.com on 12/8/2025 at 10:00AM. Unit #104; Unit #306. This sale may be withdrawn at any time without notice. Certain terms and conditions may apply.

Santa Letters
Monday, December 8
at 5 P.m.
Letters - FREE
Letters with Photo \$10
email to santa@harrodsburgherald.com

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995 N College St. Harrodsburg, KY 40330 (859)734-4556 office www.LindaWilsonRealty.com

LINDA WILSON Broker/Owner 734-4556
MISTY GAMMON Broker Associate 613-3997
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Selling Mercer County really is what we do best. If you've been thinking about selling now is the time, call us today for professional personalized service, from a family business where we treat you like family.

City of Burgin is accepting application for a part-time utility clerk
(20-22 hours per week)
This position will start Jan 5, 2026

Stop by City Hall at 117 S. Maple Street to pick up an application or it can be emailed. Please send your application along with a resume to astewart@cityofburgin.com

Job duties include but are not limited to the following:

- Answering Phone, Emails and Assisting Customers
- Taking payments from Customers and inputting payments into Software Program
- Opening New Water Accounts, including taking applications, collecting deposits, and explaining billing procedures
- Scheduling work orders
- Performing various clerical tasks, such as data entry, filing and operating standard office equipment

Qualifications:

- Must have a High School diploma or Equivalent
- Proficiency is using computers, including word processing, spreadsheets, and billing software
- Strong organizational, communication, and basic bookkeeping skills