

# Sports

## Newport Central Catholic squeaks past Lady Braves in hard-fought game

BY JACKSON UTTER  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Playing at home on Wednesday, Feb. 11, the Grant County Lady Braves faced Newport Central Catholic. Sadly for the Braves, their winning streak would be short-lived as the Thoroughbreds won 57-55. In a down-to-the-wire game, Grant lost the lead in the last seven seconds of the matchup. Despite a hard-fought performance, Newport Central Catholic's offense proved pivotal, causing issues for the Lady Braves throughout the game.

Within the first quarter, NCC's offense came out strong while Grant floundered. Although the Lady Braves earned repeated offensive rebounds, they were unable to finish at the rim and fell quickly behind.

Olivia Ginn ultimately sparked Grant's response with a pair of free throws. The Lady Braves then began to full-court press the Thoroughbreds in an attempt to slow their charge.

This pressure did bear fruit as the Lady Braves earned five steals with Ginn, Madison Utter, and Maci Fox all winning possession. With the defense earning additional chances for the offense, Grant began to cut down the difference.

Fox went on to earn seven points in the quarter while Ginn added an additional layup and a series of assists. After breaking NCC's 1-3-1 zone, Fox would close the first with a buzzer beater to make it 15-13.

Moving into the second quarter, Grant maintained their momentum as the defense was a decisive factor. Early into the quarter, Fox scored on an inbound while Moriah Wills followed up with a three-pointer. Another steal by Ginn then made it 20-15, as she earned another fastbreak layup.

Having shut down the Thoroughbreds' initially hot offense, the Lady Braves only allowed two points in the second quarter. Meanwhile, Grant built a solid position with buckets from Miller and Ginn, giving them a nine-point advantage. Incorporating improved shooting with a stalwart defense that forced repeated turnovers, the half closed 26-17.

However, this pressure was unsustainable as the Lady Braves soon stumbled following halftime. During the first minutes of the third quarter, Grant defended their lead well with Fox and Ginn earning a combined nine points. NCC's offense had found its center, though, as it began to pass through the press. After trading blows, the Thoroughbred's offense took off on a 13-point run.

Shelled shocked by the change of pace and the downhill onslaught from



Melissa Muse

Myla Rose hustles down the court in the Lady Braves' close game against Newport Central Catholic.



Melissa Muse

Ella Miller faces a Newport Central Catholic opponent last Wednesday.



Melissa Muse

Madison Utter grapples for the ball with a Newport Central Catholic player as Maci Fox stands ready to assist.

their opponents the Lady Braves struggled, going the last two and a half minutes of the quarter without scoring. In contrast, NCC continued to find guards on the weak side of the defense for open buckets.

Now trailing by three, the Lady Braves saw their opponent once more start the quarter scoring first. Wills finally countered this unanswered run with a three-pointer at the top of the key. Not long after, Miller followed suit with duel threes in response to attempts at the rim by the Thoroughbreds.

Going back-and-forth, points from Ginn and Wills were quickly matched with two putbacks from NCC. Though the Braves

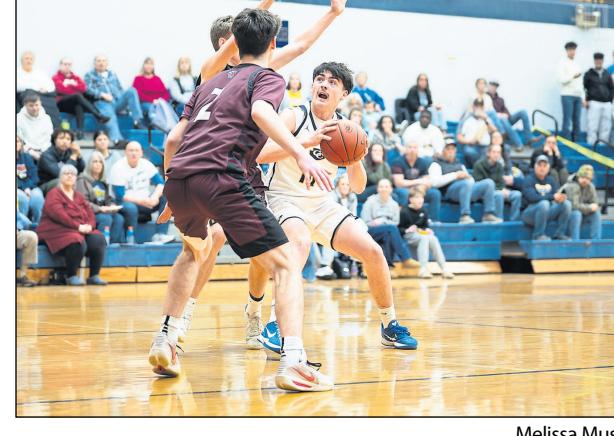
remained close at 48-47, they couldn't halt their opponents. Whereas the defense had handed Grant a solid lead, it now stood unable to prevent the Thoroughbreds from getting to the rim.

Despite an and-one and a free-throw to make it 51-47, Grant fought on. Ginn, Fox, and Wills lead the Braves counter-attack with two putbacks alongside a three-pointer. Though Grant tied the game 55-55, the final moments of the battle saw NCC secure the victory as they once more scored off the dribble. Concluding the home game in a tough loss, Grant had several players break double digits with Ginn earning 20 while Fox, Miller, and Wills scored 14, 10, and 11 respectively.

## Braves outlast Owen County to take 58-48 win

BY JACKSON UTTER  
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

On Thursday, Feb. 12, the Grant County Braves faced the Owen County Rebels for the second time in the season. Throwing down against the Rebels at home, the boys' basketball team managed to repeat their earlier success for another win. Although Owen challenged the lead several times, the Braves refused to part with their early advantage. Nathanael Hamm led the Braves offense with over 20 points, while Braylen



Melissa Muse

Trent Blake maneuvers around two Owen County defenders Feb. 12.

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### WHAT'S THE SCORE?

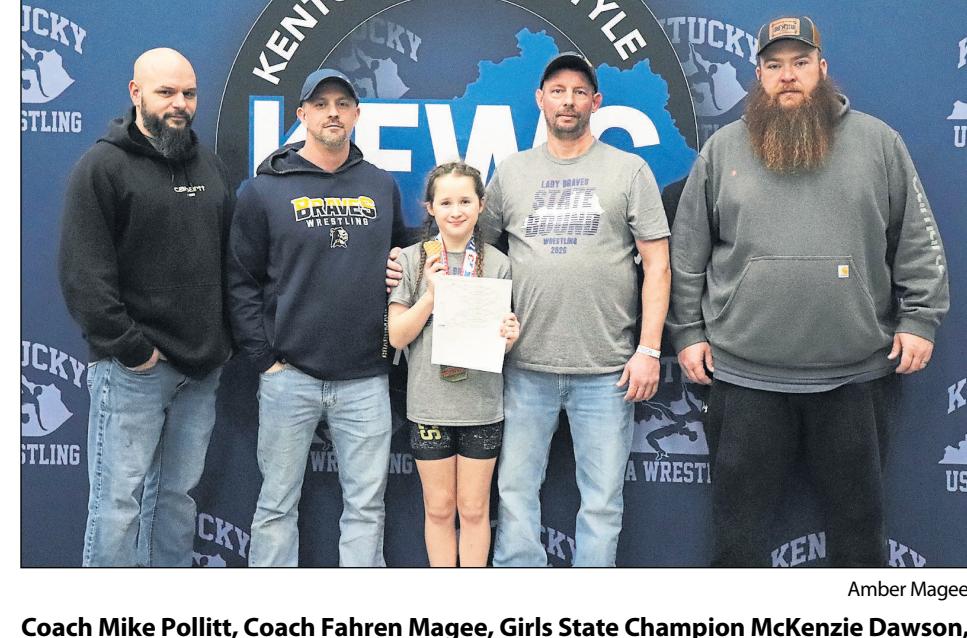
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## Braves Youth Wrestler brings home a state championship



Amber Magee

Braves Youth Wrestling competed at the 2026 Kentucky Girls Youth and Middle School State Championship in Corbin. From left: Olivia Butler, Brooklyn Pollitt and McKenzie Dawson. Dawson won the championship in her division.



Amber Magee

Coach Mike Pollitt, Coach Fahren Magee, Girls State Champion McKenzie Dawson, Coach Adam Dillingham and Coach Chris Strange pose at the 2026 Kentucky Girls Youth and Middle School State Championship on Feb. 8.

## Williamstown elementary archers make their mark at Lexington Christian Academy



Courtesy of Williamstown Independent Schools

Youngs Williamstown archers Izzy Coleman, Bryson Schwartz, Kaden Miller and Brandon Patton all placed at Lexington Christian Academy's recent tournament.



Courtesy of Williamstown Independent Schools

Members of the Williamstown Elementary Archery team pose with their first place trophy at Lexington Christian Academy.