

COURIER SPORTS

MORGAN COUNTY FOOTBALL

Keeton rushes for 94 yards, but Cougars are dealt third straight loss

By David Patrick

Braxton Rowe returned the game’s opening kickoff 72 yards for a touchdown as the Harlan Green Dragons cruised to the 41 – 6 win over visiting Morgan County.

The game was never in doubt with the home team leading 14 – 0 after one quarter and 20 – 0 at the half. Harlan put it away with a 14-point third period before posting a final TD in the fourth to secure its first victory of the season.

The Dragons scored their second touchdown on Boss Bryson’s 64-yard run (2-pt no good) midway through the opening quarter. Harlan added another TD with less than a minute remaining in the second when Jaxson Perry returned a punt 73 yards (2-pt no good). The Dragons tallied 158 yards of total offense in the first half while holding Morgan to 43.

Perry scored again on a 10-yard keeper at the 4:18 mark of the third to make it 28 – 0 (2 pt good). The Dragons then executed a fake punt on fourth down and 23 with Perry sprinting 44 yards for the score and a 34 – 0 advantage. Harlan found paydirt again early in the fourth on Perry’s four-yard pass to Eli Noe (PAT good).

The Cougars finally got on the scoreboard with 7:07 left on a 23-yard touchdown from Keavan Ketton, who finished with 94 yards on 17 carries. The rest of the team combined for only 31 yards on 14 touches.

Perry completed 4-of-7 passes for 78 yards, one touchdown and one interception. Bryson paced the ground game with seven carries for 88 yards. Perry made the most of four carries, rushing for 76 carries—an average of 19 yards a touch.

Defensively, the Cougars had 47 total tackles, led by eight from Alex Lee and six apiece by Blake Patton and Julian Osborne. Patton had the team’s only tackle-for-loss with Brett Potter picking up an interception.



Keavan Keeton was the Cougars' only consistent offensive weapon vs. Harlan with 17 carries for 94 yards.

Photo by Bella Smith/Backing the Pride



On a difficult defensive night for the Cougars, Brett Potter (#13) provided a highlight with an interception of Harlan quarterback Jaxson Perry.

Photo by Bella Smith/Backing the Pride

MORGAN COUNTY FOOTBALL

Cougars stay on the road with matchup at Fairview on Friday

By David Patrick

Morgan County will play its third road game in the first four weeks of the season when the team visits Fairview this Friday. Kickoff is set for 7:30 PM.

The Cougars have had a tough go of it offensively with only 14 total points through three games. Defensively, Coach Mark “Polo” Easterling’s squad made East Ridge (20 – 0) and Lewis County (12 – 8) earn every point before struggling a week ago in a 41 – 6 loss to Harlan.

The Eagles will bring a 2 – 1 record into the game following

a convincing 34 – 13 season-opening win at Bath County and last week’s victory via forfeit vs. Berea Community. Fairview took it on the chin at home in week two with a 34 – 6 loss to West Carter.

Fairview relies almost exclusively on the ground game—averaging 234 yards per game. Jeffery Everetts and Jace Murray lead the way, rushing for 86 and 76 yards per contest, respectively. Armani Burnside is gaining 54 an outing.

The Cougars live on the ground as well with Keavan

Keeton picking up a team-leading 297 total yards with Alex Lee adding 225. The Cougars have 555 rushing yards on 121 touches—an average of nearly five yards per carry. Ty Bowman has completed only one pass—a 20-yarder to Asa Barron—through three games.

Defensively, Lee easily leads Morgan with 34 total tackles while Brett Potter has 21. Ty Bowman (19), Ethan Jenkins (18), Keeton (13), Jude Lykins (13), Tanner Sparks (12), Julian Osborne (11) and Barron (11) have all registered double-figure tackles.

Morgan XC sweeps Founders Day race

By Jamie Brunk

Morgan County Cross Country competed in the annual Founder’s Day 5K / 2K in Salyersville last Saturday, September 5. While technically a road race, it also doubles as a “cross country” meet, albeit contested completely on blacktop.

The Cougar harriers swept both the boys and girls team divisions for their first team victory of the season.

The girls won with a perfect low score of 10 points (4 runners scoring) over Johnson Central and Magoffin.

The boys bested Paintsville, 17-38, with Johnson Central and Magoffin not having the required 5 runners to qualify

for a team score.

Tayvan Arnett finished first for the Cougar men, running his first sub-20:00 5K, in 19:41. Geno Chase placed fourth in 21:52, followed closely by AJ Chase in 22:07 (5th overall). Andrew Arnold and Ryley Smith placed 8th and 9th, respectively. They were timed in 26:05 (Arnold) and 27:00 (Smith).

The Lady Cougars ran 1-2-3, with Alyssa McPherson taking the top spot in a time of 24:31. Close behind was Saydee Sojak in second place (24:34), with Jayleigh Ferguson finishing third, clocking 26:02. Allie Engle rounded out the scoring for the Morgan girls in sixth place (29:35).

Sixth grader Kamden Arnett also ran the full 5K distance, with younger sister Bentley Arnett competing in the 2K race. Finishing times were not available for this article.

In addition, the husband and wife tandem of Josh and Zoe Obert were #1 in each of their “open” categories, Coach Obert winning the men’s portion of the race (and overall winner), while Zoey finished first in the results on women’s side.

Morgan Cross Country competed at the Rowan County All-Comers meet on Wednesday this week, and will take part in the Heart & Stroke 5K here in West Liberty this coming Saturday. Results will be in next week’s Licking Valley Courier.

PUBLIC NOTICE

An ordinance (BAFY202704) amending the Morgan County Fiscal Court budget for fiscal year 2027 to include revenues from road fund sources in the amount of \$296,082.81 and increasing appropriations in the road fund Rd Dept. vehicle/equipment purchase in the amount of \$296,082.81; was adopted during a meeting of the Morgan County Fiscal Court on August 27, 2027 at 6:00 pm local time at the County Office Building at 450 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty, KY. A copy of the full ordinance is available for public inspection in the office of the County Judge Executive.

PUBLIC NOTICE

An ordinance (BAFY202703) amending the Morgan County Fiscal Court budget for fiscal year 2027 to include revenues from road fund sources in the amount of \$534, 000.00 and increasing appropriations in the road fund CPPP funds resurface old 172 & Ivy Lane in the amount of \$534,000.00; was adopted during a meeting of the Morgan County Fiscal Court August 27, 2027 at 6:00 pm local time at the County Office Building at 450 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty, KY. A copy of the full ordinance is available for public inspection in the office of the County Judge Executive.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice to Bidders Bulk Granular De-icing Salt FY 2026-27

Sealed bids will be received by the Morgan County Fiscal Court at the Morgan County Judge Executive’s Office located at 1412 Highway 7, West Liberty, KY 41472 Monday through Friday until September 30, 2026 at 4:00 pm. Bids may be mailed or hand-delivered, or they may be presented in person at the September 30th fiscal court meeting. All bids must be signed and sealed in an envelope clearly marked ‘Salt Bid’.

Bids will be opened and read publicly in the Morgan County Fiscal Courtroom, 450 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty, KY 41472 on September 30, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

Requirements:

- 150 tons bulk granular de-icing salt (estimated), delivered to the Morgan County Road Dept.
- County guarantees minimum purchase of 80% of estimated total
- Contractor agrees to provide up to 120% of estimated total at bid price
- Morgan County Fiscal Court reserves the right to:
- Utilize additional information contained within any response;
- Waive irregularities in any response; and
- Reject any or all responses.

All bulk salt vendors, including women, minority, and veteran-owned businesses are encouraged to submit a bid.

Morgan County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any bid. Morgan County Fiscal Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer

C-9-3-2T

PUBLIC NOTICE

An ordinance (BAFY2702) amending the Morgan County Fiscal Court budget for fiscal year 2027 to include adjustments for cash carryover from general fund sources of \$819,975.42; to include adjustments for cash carryover from road fund sources of \$578,861.88; to include adjustments for cash carryover from jail fund sources of \$10,723.59; to include adjustments for cash carryover from LGFA fund sources of 94,102.41; to include adjustments for cash carryover from timberland taxing fund sources of \$1,518.62; to include adjustments for cash carryover from special projects fund sources of \$223,545.80; to include adjustments for cash carryover from clerk doc fees fund sources of \$16,438.29; and increasing expenditures in the general fund reserve for transfers by \$468,961.89; and increasing expenditures in the general fund sheriffs allotment 27,367.20; and increasing expenditures in the general fund MCFC coroner vehicle/equip coal sev project \$45,000; and increasing expenditures in the general fund MCFC animal shelter vehicle coal sev project \$40,000; and increasing expenditures in the general fund opioid funds \$670.28; and increasing expenditures in the general fund Morgan Co canine search unit \$2,000; and increasing expenditures in the general fund FEMA DR 4860 projects; and increasing expenditures in the road fund emergency road aid expenditures \$37,900.00; and increasing expenditures in the road fund FEMA DR 4864 projects \$484,249.59; and increasing expenditures in the road fund FEMA DR 4860 Cindas Creek/Old 172 projects \$100.00; and increasing expenditures in the road fund reserve for transfers \$56,612.29; and increasing expenditures in the jail fund reserve for transfers by \$10,723.59; and increasing expenditures in the LGFA fund reserve for transfers by \$52,047.86; and increasing expenditures in the LGFA fund volunteer fire dept insurance \$42,054.55; and increasing expenditures in the timberland taxing fund appropriations by \$1,518.62; and increasing expenditures in the special projects reserve for transfers \$23,341.91; and increasing expenditures in the COAG program admin fees by \$17,297.80; and increasing expenditures in the COAG program ag development grant program \$149,193.70; and increasing expenditures in the MC spay and neuter \$248.84; and increasing expenditures in the litter abatement program \$9,373.80; and increasing expenditures in the farmers conservation tire removal \$413.00; and increasing expenditures in the USDA environmental dead animal removal program by \$4,038.98; and increasing expenditures in the clerks doc fees by \$16,438.29; and increasing expenditures in the ABC funds \$19,637.77; was adopted during a meeting of the Morgan County Fiscal Court on August 27, 2026, at 6:00 pm local time at the County Office Building at 450 Prestonsburg Street, West Liberty, KY. A copy of the full ordinance is available for public inspection in the office of the County Judge Executive.

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