

# SPORTS

## Spurlock leads Boyd to win over Bobcats in 2A state semifinals

By **BILL TEMPLETON**  
*Sports Writer*

The Boyd County Lions assumed a lead they would not relinquish just past the midway point of the second quarter Saturday night and went on to edge Bell County, 61-53 in the Kentucky 2A State Tournament semifinals.

The loss snapped an eight-game winning streak for the Bobcats, who fell to 13-3 on the season. The win for the Lions was their seventh in a row and sends them into Sunday's championship game against Christian Academy-Louisville with a 14-4 overall record. CAL defeated Glasgow 78-49 in the other Saturday semifinal.

Boyd County led 17-13 heading into the second quarter, before a layup by Bell County senior Blake Burnett staked the Bobcats to a 20-19 lead with 4:05 remaining in the stanza.

A long 3-point basket by senior Gunner Woods then ignited a 7-0 scoring run by the Lions. Bell County followed with a layup by freshman Braxton Ferguson and a pair of free throws by junior Ethan Buell to cut Boyd County's lead to 26-24 at halftime.

The Lions opened the third quarter with eight unanswered points and held Bell scoreless through the first four-plus minutes of the stanza. Buell's inside basket with 3:56 remaining in the third quarter ended the Bobcats' drought, and Bell County trailed 42-33 heading into the final eight minutes.

Bell County cut the Boyd lead to six points on two occasions during the first four minutes of the final quarter, before a long 3-pointer by senior Ethan Rardon made it 51-42 just past the midway point.

Burnett converted a layup with 3:10 remaining in the game, followed by a pair of free throws by Ferguson that



DANNY VAUGHN

Bell County junior forward Ethan Buell led the Bobcats with 19 points in a 2A State Tournament semifinal loss to Boyd County on Saturday in Owensboro.

trimmed the Boyd lead to 51-48 with 2:17 left on the scoreboard clock.

Enter Boyd County senior Jacob Spurlock.

Spurlock meshed a free

throw and then turned an offensive rebound into a put-back basket to make it 54-48 with just less than two minutes remaining. Following a Buell free throw, Spurlock then

converted an old fashioned three-point play to make it 57-49 with 1:24 left and effectively seal the fate of the Bobcats. Spurlock capped the scoring for Boyd County with two final free

throws with 22 seconds left on the clock.

Buell recorded team-highs of 19 points and nine rebounds for Bell County. Ferguson scored 16 points for the Bobcats, while Burnett chipped in with 14 points and eight rebounds. Burnett and Buell were each named to the all-tournament team.

Bell County shot 43.2 percent from the field (19 of 44), but knocked down just one of its 12 tries from behind the 3-point line. The Bobcats won the battle of the backboards by a 27-24 margin and committed just eight turnovers.

Woods scored a game-high 25 points for Boyd County, including a 7-for-11 performance from behind the 3-point line. Spurlock finished with 23 points for the Lions.

Boyd County shot 48.8 percent afield (21 of 43) and converted nine of its 26 3-point attempts. The Lions also meshed 10 of their 13 tries from the free throw line and turned the ball over seven times.

Bell County is on the road for three games this week, beginning with a game Tuesday at Harlan. The Bobcats travel to Lexington on Friday for a game against Bluegrass United, followed by a Saturday contest against George Rogers Clark.

Kentucky 2A State Tournament (At Owensboro)

Boyd County (61) – Jacob Spurlock 23, Gunner Woods 25, Ethan Rardon 3, Malachi Payne 4, Caleb Rimmer 6, Clark Huff 0, Jacob Carter 0.

Bell County (53) – Cayden Huff 0, Braxton Ferguson 16, Blake Burnett 14, Jaxson Thomas 2, Ethan Buell 19, Gavin Barton 2, Kaleb Cornett 0.

Boyd County 17-9-16-19--61

Bell County 13-11-9-20-53

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**Public Notices**

**Public Notice**  
**NOTICE OF BOND RELEASE**  
  
Pursuant to Application Number 807-5246

In accordance with the provisions of KRS 350.055, notice is hereby given that Middlesboro Mining Operations, Inc., 8331 E. Walker Springs, Suite 204, Knoxville, Tennessee 37923 has applied for Phase II and III bond release on Increment 1 on Permit Number 807-5246 which was last issued on November 07, 2017. The permit covers an

**Public Notice**

Pursuant to 405 KAR 8:010, Section 16(5), the following is a summary of permitting decisions made by the Department for Natural Resources, Division of Mine Permits with respect to applications to conduct surface coal mining and reclamation operations in Bell County.

**COVOL FUELS NO 3 LLC**  
8078065RN 8 12/22/2025

**Public Notices**

area of approximately 16.23 acres and is located approximately 1.60 miles east of Davisburg in Bell County.

The operation is located approximately 2.30 miles east from Ky Route 190's junction with Davisburg Trail and located approximately 0.20 miles north of Bens Fork. The operation is located on the Kayjay U.S.G.S. 7 ½ minute quadrangle map.

The bond now in effect for Increment Number 1 is a surety bond in the amount of \$42,400, of which one hundred percent (100%) is being requested for release.

Reclamation work performed includes: grading, seeding, and mulching, completed in the winter of 2023.

Written comments, objections, and requests for a public hearing or informal conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Permits, Second Floor, 300 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-6571 by Friday, February 06, 2026.

A public hearing on the application has been scheduled for Monday, February 09, 2026 at 9:00 A. M. at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement, Middlesboro Regional Office, 1804 East Cumberland Avenue, Middlesboro, Kentucky 40965-1229. The hearing will be cancelled if no request for hearing or informal conferences is received by Friday, February 06, 2026

Middlesboro Daily News: Jan. 7, 14 and 21, 2026  
**807-5246**

**Public Notice**  
  
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Middlesboro News: Jan. 21, 2026  
**AUCTION 2.10.26**

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**Public Notices**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**PLANNING & ZONING PUBLIC HEARING MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING REQUEST**

All requests for applications to construct multi-family residential dwellings, as defined in 150.005 shall be made in writing to The Planning Commission for the City of Middlesboro. The Planning Commission shall hold a **Public Hearing**, as required by Chapter 150.035(B)(6), on the application to aid them in deciding the merit of the proposed plan.

**Lorsung Rentals LLC** has made a request for public hearing for consideration of construction of multi-family residences at 412 Exeter Avenue, adjacent to an existing multi-family residences (4-plex), located at 408 Exeter Avenue. The property is zoned as R-2 Residential, which allows multi-family dwellings, pending approval by the Planning Commission following a public hearing.

Lorsung Rentals LLC describes the development plan as the creation of modern high-end apartment complex, consisting of 12 luxury one bedroom, one bath units, approximately 800 square feet offering spacious layouts and premium finishes. Variances may also be required for the project, for lot size, parking requirements, and setback requirements.

**The Public Hearing will be scheduled for Wednesday, February 04, 2026 at 1:00 PM, in Council Chambers, at Middlesboro City Hall, conducted by the Planning Commission.** The public is invited to attend and make comments regarding the proposed amendments.

Any questions, or written comments, regarding the proposal may be directed to: Tim Kelley, Codes Enforcement Office, (606) 248-5670 Ext 110. City of Middlesboro, P.O. Box 756, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

Middlesboro Daily News: Jan. 21, 2026  
**HEARING/RENTALS**

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**AUCTION 2.10.26**

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Joshua Green 202  
Joann Griffith 402  
Kaitlin Miracle C14  
Torrey Oliver 2011  
Jim Williams B19

Margarita Cowell 25E60  
Delia Woodby 25E81  
Joshua Miracle 25E32

Middlesboro Daily News: Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4, 2026  
**AUCTION 2.12.26**

**Public Notice**  
**PLANNING & ZONING PUBLIC HEARING MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING REQUEST**

All requests for applications to construct multi-family residential dwellings, as defined in 150.005 shall be made in writing to The Planning Commission for the City of Middlesboro. The Planning Commission shall hold a **Public Hearing**, as required by Chapter 150.035(B)(6), on the application to aid them in deciding the merit of the proposed plan.

**Lucas B Carter** has made a request for public hearing for consideration of construction of multi-family residences at 212 S 22nd Street. The property is zoned as B-3 Central Business District, which allows multi-family dwellings, as a principal use, pending approval by the Planning Commission following a public hearing.

Mr. Carter describes the development plan as a 4-plex multi-family unit, containing 4- one bedroom, one bath apartments, each 544 square feet, two on each floor. The total square feet of the structure is 2496 square feet, including a covered porch.

**The Public Hearing will be scheduled for Wednesday, February 04, 2026 at 1:00 PM, in Council Chambers, at Middlesboro City Hall, conducted by the Planning Commission.** The public is invited to attend and make comments regarding the proposed amendments.

Any questions, or written comments, regarding the proposal may be directed to: Tim Kelley, Codes Enforcement Office, (606) 248-5670 Ext 110. City of Middlesboro, P.O. Box 756, Middlesboro, KY 40965.

Middlesboro Daily News: Jan. 21, 2026  
**HEARING/CARTER**

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