

PREP BASEBALL

## Bobcats complete sweep of Jackets

By Bill Templeton  
Middlesboro News

Bell County sophomore Brayden Carroll pitched a complete-game gem Tuesday against district rival Middlesboro, setting the stage for a showdown next week against Harlan to determine the top seed in the 52nd District Tournament.

Carroll yielded just four hits, walked none and struck out seven Middlesboro hitters in the 11-1, five-inning win. It was the fifth consecutive victory for the Bobcats. Bell County and Harlan will each enter next week's two-game series with spotless 4-0 records.

"The pulse of the game is usually dependent on who's on the mound, and Brayden Carroll had a phenomenal effort for us (Tuesday)," Bell County coach Jeff Szikszai said. "He just did a fantastic job."

"We played good defense behind him, and I was really happy with how we ran the bases. We'd been having some mental lapses running the bases and we were much better with that, and we got some timely hitting, so it was a good recipe for a good district win. I was pleased with those things."

Bell County (9-5) scored at least one run in all five innings. Senior Blake Burnett's run-scoring single in the bottom of the first inning opened the scoring, and a three-run double off the bat of senior Cooper Brock made it 5-1 after two innings.

An RBI-single in the third inning by freshman Mason Szikszai made it 6-1, and run-scoring singles in the fourth frame by sophomore Ty Mays and junior Alex Creech made it 10-1.

Brock, Mays, Burnett, Creech, Mason Szikszai and Ayden Smith all collected hits for Bell County.

A run-scoring single in the third inning by senior Malachi Coots accounted for the Yellow Jackets' lone run of the game.

Colt Bayless, Mitchell Capps, Coots and Jayden Simpson each had a hit for Middlesboro.

Coots pitched into the fourth inning and was tagged with the loss. He surrendered five hits, walked seven Bobcats and struck out two others.

Next up for Bell County is a road game Thursday at Knox Central, while Middlesboro (4-6) travels Friday to Pineville.

**BELL COUNTY 18, MIDDLESBORO 2**  
The visiting Bell County Bobcats assumed command early in their 52nd District baseball showdown Monday with rival Middlesboro and went on to post an 18-2 win over the Yellow Jackets.

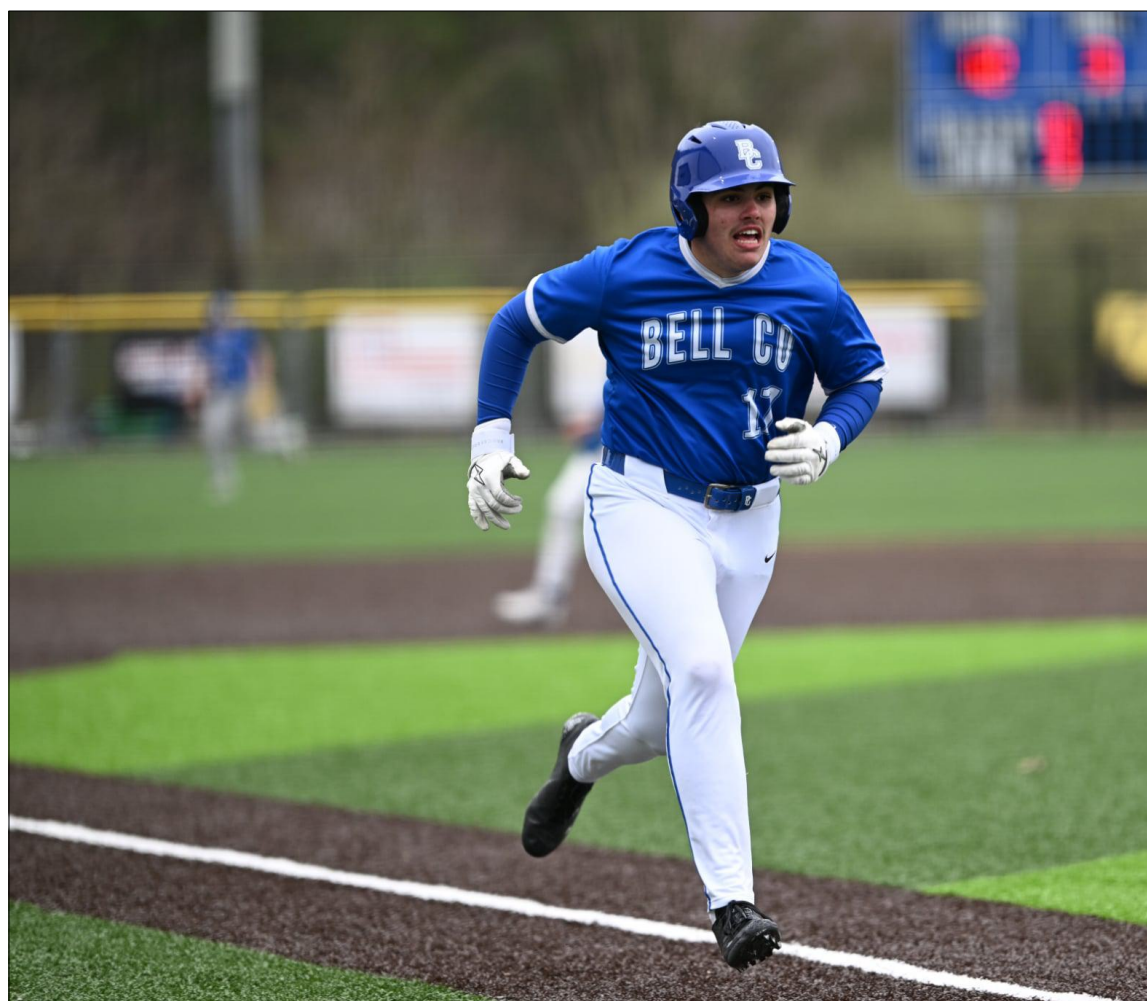
Four Bobcats collected a pair of hits for the winners, who improved to 3-0 in 52nd District play and 7-5, overall. Bell County has now won four consecutive games.

"It's always good to get a district win, and I thought we did a lot of good things (against Middlesboro)," Bell County coach Jeff Szikszai said. "We put a lot of balls in play, put some pressure on them and were able to take advantage of their mistakes. We had a couple of big hits in big situations to take advantage of some runners we got on base, so that was good to see."

After Middlesboro grabbed the early lead on a first-inning home run by senior Colt Bayless, the Bobcats exploded for six runs on just four hits in the second frame. The big hit of the inning came off the bat of sophomore Brayden Carroll, whose three-run double made it 5-1.

Despite recording just one hit in the frame, Bell County scored eight times in the fourth inning. Middlesboro was charged with two of its six errors in the fourth inning and Yellow Jackets pitchers walked five batters and hit three others with pitches.

Bell County added four runs in the fifth inning. Sophomore Dalton Black ignited the rally with an RBI-double, while classmate Ty Mays' double drove in a pair of Bobcats later in the



DANNY VAUGHN

Bell County's Ty Mays raced home with a run earlier this season. Mays and the Bobcats improved to 4-0 in district action with a sweep of Middlesboro.

frame.

Carroll, Mays, Black and Holden Clark each collected two hits for Bell County, while teammates Ayden Smith and Mason Szikszai (double) also recorded hits.

Senior Blake Burnett recorded another solid performance on the mound for the Bobcats in a four-inning stint. Burnett yielded five hits, walked four batters and struck out two. Black struck out two of the four batters he faced during the fifth inning.

Middlesboro, which dropped its fourth straight game, got two hits from Parker Hampton, while Bayless, Isaac Harris and Cayden Burchett also had singles for the Yellow Jackets.

Freshman Mitchell Capps pitched into the second inning for Middlesboro and was tagged

with the loss. Capps yielded four hits, walked four batters and struck out three Bobcats. Harris, Bryson Heck and John Hayes also saw mound action for the Yellow Jackets.

"I think we have better baseball ahead of us and can definitely play better, but it's always good to get a district win and we have to be ready to go (Tuesday) night," Jeff Szikszai said.

**KNOX CENTRAL 12, BELL COUNTY 4 BARBOURVILLE** - Host Knox Central broke open a close game Thursday by scoring seven runs in the fifth inning en route to a 12-4 win over the Bell County baseball team.

Knox Central recorded five of its nine hits during the pivotal fifth inning and went on to snap the Bobcats' five-game winning streak.

Bell County (9-6) got three hits, including a double, from sophomore Ty Mays, while senior Cooper Brock recorded a pair of hits for the Bobcats. Bell County also got hits from Holden Clark, Brayden Carroll (double), Blake Burnett, Mason Szikszai (double) and Dalton Black.

Brock started on the mound for Bell County and was tagged with the loss. He yielded four hits and four walks, while striking out eight Knox Central batters.

Next up for Bell County is a 52nd District showdown at home Monday and on the road Tuesday against Harlan. Each team will begin the week with spotless 4-0 district records.

## Yellow Jackets take first place in 'Doc' Gray Invitational

By Abby Sherman  
Middlesboro News

The Middlesboro and Bell County track teams traveled to Harlan on Saturday to compete in the E.R. "Doc" Gray Invitational.

Middlesboro's boys won the meet with 182 points, followed by Harlan (96), Lee (91), Bell County (87), Claiborne (23), Jenkins (19), Red Bird (13) and Lynn Camp (seven).

Lee's girls won with 222 points, followed by Middlesboro (101), Claiborne (63), Harlan (51), Bell County (42), Jenkins (22) and Lynn Camp (11).

To lead Middlesboro's boys,

Brent Thompson won the 300-meter hurdles and long jump. Jarelle Lawrence won the 200-meter dash. Colby Lawson won triple jump. Allen Choron won discus.

Lawrence, Colby Lawson, Caden Lawson and Kameron Delph won the 4 x 100-meter relay. Colby Lawson, Caden Lawson, Jammy Lim and Major Shirley won the 4 x 200-meter relay. Korbin Temple, Aiden Spencer, Nathan Nichols and Trey Patterson won the 4 x 800-meter relay.

Thalia Partin led Middlesboro's girls, winning the 100- and 200-meter dash. Leah Spencer won the 300-meter hurdles. Partin,



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Middlesboro boys placed first and the girls were second in the "Doc" Gray Invitational on Friday in Harlan.

Leah Spencer, Ava Spencer and Alysia Smith won the 4 x 100-meter relay. Partin, Ava Spencer, Leah Spencer and Annison Hayes

won the 4 x 200-meter relay. Andrew Hoskins paced Bell County's boys, winning the 3,200-meter run.

To lead Bell County's girls, Abigail Johnson won the 1,600-meter run. Ireland Stigal won shot put.

### Public Notices

continue throughout the school year. As part of these efforts the Bell County School District will use screening information, student records, and basic assessment information it collects on all children in the District to help locate those children who have a disability and need Special Education or 504 Services. Any information the District collects through "ChildFind" is maintained confidentially. Written Policies and Procedures have been developed which describe the District's requirements regarding the confidentiality of personally identifiable information and "ChildFind" activities. There are copies in the Principal's office of each school, and in the Board of Education office. Copies of these Policies and Procedures may be obtained by contacting: Jonathan Defevers Policy Analyst Bell County School System 9828 US 25 E 2nd Floor Pineville, Kentucky 40977

### Public Notices

Phone: (606)337-7051, Extension#132  
The District office is open Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
The Bell County School District provides a public notice in the native language or other mode of communication of the various populations in the geographical boundaries of the District to the extent feasible. If you know of someone who may need this notice translated to another language, given orally, or delivered in some other manner or mode of communication, please contact the Director of Pupil Personnel, the Director of Special Education or the Section 504 Coordinator at the address or phone number listed above for the Bell County Schools.  
**The Bell County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, genetic information, age, marital status, sex, or disability in employment, education programs or activities and provides equal access to the**

### Public Notices

**Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups as set forth in the Title IX, Title VI or Section 504. For inquiries involving nondiscrimination policies please contact: 504/Title IX Coordinator, 9828 US 25 E 2nd Floor, Pineville, KY 40977. Phone: (606) 337-7051**  
Middlesboro Daily News: Apr. 29, 2026  
**FERPA 2026-2027**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Public Notice/ Variance Board Request for Variance**  
A request has been made to the Variance Board of the City of Middlesboro, for a variance from size of lot dimensions. The property is owned by Graham & Colleen Lorusung, and is located at 412 Exeter Avenue. The lot will be incorporated with 408 Exeter Avenue, to further enhance the existing units on the adjoining property. The

### Public Notices

property is located in R-2 Residential zone. The proposal is to build a tri-plex, 3 luxury 2-bedroom, 2.5 bath units, consisting of 1500 square foot, per unit. The current requirements for lot size, in R-2 Residential, are 6000 square feet in the first unit, plus 3000 square feet for each additional unit. All other zoning requirements will be met. The Variance Board will conduct a public hearing regarding the proposal, in Council Chambers at City Hall, on May 13, 2026, at 2:00 PM. The public is invited to attend, and make comments regarding the proposal. Any questions, or written comments, regarding this 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: Apr. 29, 2026  
**VARIANCE/LORUSUNG**

## "IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY"

3 Bedroom Apartments ready for immediate occupancy for qualified residents. Income based units featuring hardwood floors & window blinds. Kitchen equipped with range & refrigerator. Water, sewer & garbage are provided by the owner. On sight laundry facility is available for on sight residents.

**Contact Happy Hollow Apartments 11G Happy Hollow Road Middlesboro, KY 40965.**

**606-248-5196**  
between 8am - 12pm or 1pm - 4:30pm