

Cottrell hits 1,000 Career Points, Jones wins 100th as HC downs Middlesboro

By PAUL LUNSFORD

History was in the making at Middlesboro High School on Friday as Harlan County senior guard Reggie Cottrell scored his 1,000th career point and HC coach Kyle Jones collecting his 100th win.

The Black Bears jumped out to a first half lead and slipped by the Yellow Jackets with a 69-61 win.

Looking back three years ago, it was a team that featured a 3,000-point scorer (Trent Noah), a 2,000-point scorer (Maddox Huff) and Cottrell's 1,000th.

Cottrell poured in 36 points as Harlan County improved to 14-8 overall and 3-1 in district play. He also grabbed 10 rebounds. Junior guard Trenton Cole scored 16 points. Kaden Jones and Landon Brock each added six points. Brady Smith contributed three while Brennan Blevins had two.

Senior guard Joseph Killion scored 19 points in for the 11-12 Yellow Jackets. Junior guard Bryson Brooks finished with 18 points. Aiden Larew added nine points and a team-high seven rebounds.

The Black Bears jumped out to a 24-11 advantage after one quarter and extended the lead to 39-22 at halftime.

Middlesboro fought back in

the second half, outscoring HC in the third and fourth periods.

Killion scored five baskets in the third quarter as the Jack-ets cut the deficit to 54-41.

Middlesboro got as close as eight points in the final frame as the Black Bears claimed the district victory.

It was Harlan County's 14th straight win over Middlesboro. The Bears have a 41-8 record all-time against the Jackets.

Middlesboro struggled shooting 3-pointers (two of 16) and free throws (nine of 18), plus turning the ball over 12 times.

HCHS nailed seven 3-pointers as Cottrell hit three. Jones and Cole added two apiece.

The Bears connected on 14 of 20 free throws and made 24 of 44 from the field for 55 percent.

Middlesboro hosted Bell County on Monday and traveled to Barbourville on Tuesday.

The Yellow Jackets will host Clay County on Friday before visiting Somerset on Saturday afternoon.

The Black Bears were scheduled to play at Berea High School on Saturday to face Madison Southern in the Bill Smallwood Classic.

Harlan County plays host to Pineville on Thursday, visits Harlan on Friday and travels to Breathitt County on Monday.



Harlan County High School Wins District Governor's Cup Competition

The Harlan County High School Academic Team won first place in the Kentucky Governor's Cup District 56 competition held Thursday at Clay County High School.

Harlan County (41.5) was followed by Clay County (33) in second, Harlan Independent (29) in third and Leslie County (19.5) in fourth.

Individual results from the competition included:

Mathematics: Gabriel Clay, first, Harlan County; Ethan Lewis, second, Harlan County; Harlan Marietta, third, Harlan Independent; Ethan Nichols, fourth, Harlan County; and Murtaza Hussain, fifth, Harlan Independent.

Science: Ethan Lewis, first,

Harlan County; Dylan Wombles, second, Clay County; Dorie Sizemore, third, Clay County; Avery Carroll, fourth, Harlan Independent; Gabriel Clay, Harlan County and Landen Caudill, Leslie County, tie for fifth.

Social Studies: Adam Collett, first, Clay County; Dylan Wombles, second, Clay County; Jimmy Shepherd, third, Harlan County; Landen Caudill, fourth, Leslie County; and Aaron Goss, Harlan Independent, fifth.

Language Arts: Salena Amro, first, Harlan Independent; Skylar Rutherford, second, Harlan County; Jack Eld, third, Harlan County; Adalynn Byrd, fourth, Clay County; and Emma Mattingly, fifth, Leslie County.

Arts and Humanities: Isaac

Owens, first; Leslie County; Sadie Nolan, second, Clay County; Jaci Davis, third, Harlan Independent; Serenity Brock, fourth, Harlan Independent; and Adalynn Byrd, fifth, Clay County.

Composition: Harlan Marietta, first, Harlan Independent; Jack Eld, second, Harlan County; Skylar Rutherford, third, Harlan County; Gwen Davidson, fourth, Clay County; and Rihanna Montanaro, fifth, Harlan Independent.

Quick Recall: Clay County, first; Harlan County, second; Leslie County, third; and Harlan Independent, fourth.

Future Problem Solving: Leslie County, first; Harlan Independent, second; and Harlan County, third.



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Cheer Champions!

Congratulations to Cawood Elementary School, the 2026 middle school cheer champions. James A. Cawood Elementary won second, followed by Wallins in third. Black mountain won the school spirit sportsmanship award.

Harlan County Schools To Hold Public Hearing About District Facility Plan

The Harlan County Board of Education has scheduled a local board public hearing on the proposed District Facility Plan for Thursday, February 12, 2026 at the Harlan Board of Education Office at 5:30 p.m.

The District Facility Plan lists the pending capital construction and/or renovation projects that the school district may undertake, and the priority order, if appli-

cable, that projects will be initiated. Copies of the proposed District Facility Plan are available for examination by interested individuals at the Central Office, 251 Ball Park Road, Harlan, KY 40831, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Questions may be directed to Mr. Scott Pace at 606-573-4330. Those individuals who would like to comment on the proposed District Facility Plan may present oral

or written documents at the local Board public hearing.

The local Board of Education, after due process, will forward the approved District Facility Plan to the Kentucky Department of Education for review before final approval by the Kentucky Board of Education.

The local Board public hearing is being scheduled in accordance with KRS 157.620 and regulated by 702 KAR 1:001.