

By JOHN HENSON

Harlan County Schools

WILLIAMSBURG — With a solid combination of defense and depth, the Harlan County Lady Bears opened their 2011-2012 season with a 63-41 victory Monday over the Williamsburg Lady Jackets.

Harlan County led by only two early in the second quarter when the Lady Bears' fullcourt press and aggressive man-to-man defense sparked a 20-0 run.

Williamsbug turned the ball over 11 times in the period and took only five shots from the field, hitting one.

"We played with them the whole game, except for the second quarter,"

Williamsburg coach Andrea Ellis said. "I felt if we stepped up the second quarter we might have had a shot. We had a lot of bad decisions. I dread going back and watching the film. We really have to work on our mental game and learn to play four quarters."

Harlan County took a 5-0 lead as Williamsburg had six turnovers and put up no shots in the opening four minutes. The Lady Jackets battled back to within three by the end of the period as junior guard Kayleigh Lawson had two baskets, including a 3-pointer.

After Lawson's free throw to open the second quarter cut the deficit to 11-9, Harlan County reeled off 20 straight points and built a 36-14 lead at the break. Senior forward Kalee Carroll and eighth-grade guard Brooklyn Massingill each had two baskets in the period as eight Lady Bears had field goals in the period.

"The first quarter was ugly. We didn't get into a good rhythm. We were playing hard, but we weren't playing smart," Harlan County coach Anthony Nolan said. "We settled down and looked a lot better the second quarter. We played really good defense the second quarter and did a good job moving the ball and finishing."

Senior guard Miranda Davenport scored 18 points to lead the Lady Bears. Carroll had 11 points and seven rebounds, and junior center Sarah Evans contributed eight points and 10 rebounds.

Harlan County was unable to maintain its intensity in the third quarter as Williamsburg outscored the Lady Bears 9-8, led by a pair of 3-pointers from junior guard Carissa Conlin, who led the Lady Jackets with 13 points.

"We called the press off the third quarter. We probably should have stayed a little more aggressive, but that was my fault," Nolan said. "We needed to work on some other things. We got a little flat the third quarter."

"One bad quarter will do it," Ellis said. "You have to play catch up the rest of the game. I don't want to say we're young. We're not that young, but we have step up mentally and keep our heads in the game.

Eleven Lady Bears reached the scoring column and several reserves played well, led by junior forward Keisha Mimes, freshman guard Bella Noe, freshman center Melissa Stewart and sophomore center Shannon Shackelford.

"That's what we're looking for, to see who will be that extra scorer on a given night," Nolan said. "We had good balance inside and outside. I think it could be any number of kids who could give us a lift off the bench. We're still a young and it will take them a while to mature in those spots."

Williamsburg travels to Monticello on Thursday. Harlan County returns to action

Friday at South Laurel.

Lauren Lee and Bella Noe each scored nine points as Harlan County (1-0) won 34-18 in the junior varsity game. Shannon Shackelford added five. Melissa Stewart and Lyndsay Branson tossed in four each. Chelsea Niday added three.

Gabby Patrick paced Williamsburg with six points. Haley Harris and Billie Berry scored four each. Katie Jones and Lexie Boggs added two each.

HARLAN COUNTY (1-0)

Miranda Davenport 6-14 5-7 18, Brooklyn Massingill 3-9 0-0 6, Kaitlyn Stittums 1-3 0-0 2, Kalee Carroll 5-12 1-6 11, Sarah Evans 4-4 0-3 8, Madison Cornett 0-0 1-2 1, Lauren Lee 2-3 1-2 6, Keisha Mimes 1-3 0-0 2, Shannon Shackelford 1-2 0-0 2, Shauntae Lewis 0-1 0-0 0, Bella Noe 2-2 1-2 5, Melissa Stewart 1-2 0-0 2, Becky Freeman 0-0 0-0 0, Chelsea Niday 0-0 0-0 0, Rachel Carmical 0-0 0-0 0, Bridgett Bennett 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 26-55 9-22 63.

WILLIAMSBURG (0-1)

Carissa Conlin 4-11 3-5 13, Kacie Brown 2-5 5-6 9, Megan Lawson 1-2 1-4 3, Paige Haar 1-6 2-2 4, Audrey Ash 1-1 0-0 2, Billie Berry 0-2 0-0 0, Kayleigh Lawson 2-2 3-4 8, Elaina Jackson 1-3 0-0 2, Annie Keith 0-0 0-0 0. Totals: 12-32 14-21 41.

Harlan County	11	25	8	19	—	63
Williamsburg	8	6	9	18	—	41

3-point goals: Harlan County 2-6 (Lee 1-1, Davenport 1-3, Massingill 0-2), Williamsburg 3-8 (Conlin 2-5, K. Lawson 1-1, Brown 0-1, Berry 0-1). Rebounds: Harlan County 35 (Evans 10), Williamsburg (Brown, Conlin 4). Turnovers: Harlan County 17, Williamsburg 26. Fouled out: Williamsburg (M. Lawson, Ash).