

# West Jessamine continues to roll over Pulaski

## Derek Brightwell Contributing Writer

Postseason basketball — at any level — is about who's getting hot at the right time and during the 12th Region tournament, perhaps no team is hotter than West Jessamine.

"It's your goal as a coach every year — you want to be playing your best ball when it counts," West coach Damon Kelley said.

In the first round, the Colts made short work of Southwestern, getting by them 84-56. In the semifinals, they had little trouble getting by Pulaski County, winning by a final of 82-68.

While DeAjuan Stepp was the show on Wednesday's win, it was Nate Breeden who stood out on Monday.

Breeden hit six of his nine three point attempts, knocked down all seven of his free throw attempts and made his

only shot from inside the arc to finish with 27 points.

"He had a phenomenal game," Kelley said. "When he hit the first one, you could tell he wanted the ball for another one. He's capable of doing that."

The Colts had to fend off a late game comeback attempt by the Maroons before the pulled away for the comfortable margin of victory.

"We had a couple of bad possessions, but you have to give Pulaski County credit," Kelley said. "We knew that they weren't going to go down without a fight."

As the Maroons started to gain some momentum, the student section and the home crowd started to get more and more into the game, but Kelley discredits how much home court advantage played a factor in the game.

"We knew it was going to be a tough game, not because it was at PC, but because Pulaski is a really good basketball team," he said. "They've got good players, no weak spots on the floor. Moreso than where we were playing, it was how we played and that showed tonight."

Adversity isn't something that the Colts are foreign to. They've played a tough schedule and while that's resulted in a record that isn't as impressive as their regional peers, it's prepared them for the tournament.

"We play a tough schedule every year and our record isn't always glossy and fancy. But when we get into tournament play, we're battle tested," Kelley said. "We know what it takes to be successful and what you can't do if you expect to win games. Sometimes you've got to learn the hard way and I

think this team has really grown up and matured as a basketball team. It's fun and we want to keep it going."

As West looked dominant against the region's best team by RPI, the two coaches who would be playing for the chance to join them in the championship looked on with more questions than answers.

Danville coach Ed McKinney said that he told Jeron Dunbar of Somerset "Whoever wins this one, good luck."

Kelley knows that his team is clicking on all cylinders.

"I think we're really locked in defensively. We're sharing the ball well offensively — we're getting contributions from everyone who plays," he said. "I'm just thankful that we've got the opportunity to play tomorrow night for the championship."



The Harrodsburg Herald/Derek Brightwell  
**Clayton Winter blocks a Pulaski County shot in a big moment of Monday's win.**



The Harrodsburg Herald/Derek Brightwell  
**DeAjuan Stepp gathers to go up for a layup in Monday night's win over Pulaski County**