

We must stand behind these bipartisan efforts, and I urge Senate Republicans to join all Senate Democrats in supporting passage of the Justice for All Reauthorization Act of 2013.

COVINGTON CATHOLIC COLONELS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I believe my Senate colleagues are well aware of how seriously we take our college basketball in my home State of Kentucky. The Kentucky High School Athletic Association, KHSAA, State Basketball Championship has been played every year since 1918 and is truly a special event.

Kentucky is one of three States that does not divide its schools into classes based on size—that means one State, one tournament, and only one champion. Teams that advance out of their district tournaments play in one of sixteen regional tournaments—the winners of which advance to play in the KHSAA Sweet Sixteen in Lexington's legendary Rupp Arena.

This year, over 14,000 fans packed the stands for the championship game and watched Covington Catholic High School defeat Scott County in an overtime thriller. I rise today to pay tribute to the players, coaches and fans of the 2014 champions—the Covington Catholic Colonels.

For the Colonels, led by head coach Scott Ruthsatz, the road to the school's first-ever title was not easy—it seldom is in this grueling, statewide tournament. Covington Catholic found themselves down in the second half in three out of their four Sweet Sixteen games—including the championship. The players never gave up hope, though. On his team's 27 to 18 halftime deficit in the championship game, tournament MVP Nick Ruthsatz—Scott's son—said coolly, “We've been in this position before and we knew we could pull through.”

As it turned out, Nick's confidence was not misplaced. The Colonels stormed back, tying the game at 47 with only 50 seconds to go, and sending the game into overtime. In the extra period, it was the Colonels staunch defense and clutch free throws that propelled them to a 59 to 51 victory.

The 97th KHSAA Basketball Championship, like so many before it, was an excellent display of athletic ability as well as sportsmanship. This tournament would not be what it is without the efforts of the players, coaches, fans, and teachers of all the participating schools. They are all worthy of our praise.

However, in Kentucky, there can only be one champion. Thus, I ask that my Senate colleagues join me in congratulating the Covington Catholic Colonels on winning the 2014 KHSAA State Basketball Championship.

An article was recently published in the Cincinnati Enquirer chronicling Covington Catholic High School's championship win. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objections, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Cincinnati Enquirer, Mar. 24, 2014]

COVINGTON CATHOLIC REJOICES IN HISTORIC BASKETBALL TITLE (By James Weber)

LEXINGTON.—Ben Heppler stood at center court on the Rupp Arena floor and kept looking around at all the chaos and celebration around him.

Chaos, celebration and cheer, same first letters as Covington Catholic Colonels, who were celebrating their first state basketball championship March 23.

“I'm trying to soak it all in,” Heppler said. “I'll remember this for the rest of my life.”

Cov Cath outlasted Scott County in overtime, 59-51 Sunday afternoon, March 23, at the University of Kentucky's historic basketball arena. It was the third title in Northern Kentucky history, and the second in the past six tournaments by a Ninth Region team (Holmes, 2009). It was also the first in Cov Cath history in its ninth trip to the Sweet 16.

“It's incredible,” said senior forward Mark Schult. “You dream of it, as a little kid, going out and winning your last game, and it's hard to believe we actually did it.”

The Colonels finished with a 33-2 record. After losing to Holmes in the 35th District final, the Colonels won seven straight games. They trailed in the second half in three of the four state tourney games.

With a veteran team and most of the student body in attendance as the Colonel Crazies, it was a great day for Covington Catholic.

“It's so special,” said head coach Scott Ruthsatz. “You have to look at the administration on down, what they're doing at Covington Catholic. You have to give so much credit to the Crazies. Our Colonel Nation really supported us, and not just this game, all season long. Being the first winner of it, it feels fantastic.”

Said Heppler: “It's really special to be the first ones and hang that first banner up there. We've always had that empty spot and since Coach Ruthsatz's first day we said we would be the ones to put it up there. The 6 a.m. workouts in the summer, playing in the gym all those times, it paid off.”

Cov Cath's fitness and toughness in adversity paid off against the experienced Cardinals, who were seeking their third state title (35-4). After an early 9-3 lead, Cov Cath was on the wrong end of a 22-4 run and trailed 27-18 at halftime. Scott had three 3-pointers in a 70-second span by junior Hines Jones, who averaged four points a game for the year. Forward Tony Martini had Scott's first five points and posted 17 points and 16 rebounds for the game. Cov Cath shot just 6-of-22 in the first half, several of those misses coming from around the rim.

“We've been in this situation before and we knew we could pull through,” Nick Ruthsatz said. “We knew eventually we would start hitting some, and the fourth quarter we just buckled down. All the conditioning through the summer pulled us through.”

Cov Cath trailed by four points, 47-43, with 1:33 to go. Ruthsatz tied the game with a pair of foul shots with 51 seconds to play.

Ruthsatz gave Cov Cath its first lead since 9-8 early in OT, then tied the game at 51 with 2:16 to play. A tip-in by junior Bo Schuh gave the Colonels the lead for good with 1:46 to play.

After three missed shots by the Cardinals on their next possession, Ruthsatz grabbed the rebound and made two foul shots with 57 seconds to play to make it 55-51. Following

another missed shot, CCH senior Parker Keller made two free throws, then Heppler scored the final points of the season on a fast-break layup.

“We just played better defense, tried to lock them down,” Heppler said. “That's the experience of this team with three senior starters and Parker hitting those huge free throws at the end. It's a team game. Everybody can score. Most teams around the state don't have five guys who can guard everybody, so that works to our advantage.”

Ruthsatz had 25 points and five assists. Schult had 12 points and six rebounds. Heppler scored eight with a pair of treys. Freshman guard Cole VonHandorf had nine points, and Schuh posted 12 rebounds.

One of VonHandorf's chief tasks was guarding Scott County star guard Trent Gilbert, who came in averaging 26 points per game. The Mr. Basketball finalist, who is getting interest from several Division I schools, only scored 10 points on 4-of-25 shooting. Cov Cath rotated several defenders on him and often double-teamed him in the backcourt.

“We just tried to pressure him as much as possible, because we knew he's a great shooter,” Scott Ruthsatz said. “You can never leave him open. We had a hint of the way he likes to go and shoot, and we tried to keep fresh guys on him.”

The fatigue may have hand in two crucial foul-shot misses by Gilbert. A 91-percent shooter for the year, Gilbert made 28 in a row in the Sweet 16. However, he missed the front ends of two one-and-one situations late in regulation.

“I love stepping up and being able to shut him down,” VonHandorf said. “They told me if I shut him down, we win. I tried my best. He's a great player; I'll give him so many props. I can't wait to see where he goes next year. (Assistant coach) Joe Fredrick told me all of his moves, I had them all down, I felt I could play him fairly well.”

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, section 114(d) of H.J. Res. 59, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013, allows the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to revise the allocations, aggregates, and levels filed on January 14, 2014, pursuant to section 111 of H.J. Res. 59, for a number of deficit-neutral reserve funds. These reserve funds were incorporated into the Bipartisan Budget Act by reference to sections of S. Con. Res. 8, the Senate-passed budget resolution for 2014. Among these sections is a reference to section 302 of S. Con. Res. 8, which, in subsection (c), establishes a deficit-neutral reserve fund for unemployment relief. The authority to adjust enforceable levels in the Senate for unemployment relief is contingent on that legislation not increasing the deficit over either the period of the total of fiscal years 2013 through 2018 or the period of the total of fiscal years 2013 through 2023.

I find that amendment 2874, the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2014, to H.R. 3979 fulfills the conditions of the deficit-neutral reserve fund for unemployment relief, including not increasing the deficit over either of the 2013 through 2018 or 2013 through 2023 budget windows. Therefore, pursuant to section 114(d) of H.J. Res. 59, I am adjusting the budgetary aggregates, as well as the allocation to the Committee on Finance.