

Boys lose by one to Clay County

The Rockcastle County Rockets dropped their third district game of the season Tuesday night, with a one point loss to Clay County, 50-49.

The Rockets held the lead throughout the first half and went into the locker room up three at the half 26-23.

Senior Nick Leger, who was high point man for the night with 20, kept the Rockets in the game with five three pointers, made at crucial times. The Rockets went up 9-2 to start the game, with a three by Andrew Cash and two by Leger.

Clay County cut the Rockets lead to one, 13-12, before Cash hit a three to end the quarter with Rockcastle up 16-12.

Matthew Brown added two points to the Rocket effort in the second quarter, being the only other Rockcastle player to score other than Cash and Leger in the first half.

The Tigers cut the Rockets lead to three to end the first half 26-23.

The third quarter was a messy affair for both teams, as Rockcastle could only muster ten points, just hanging on for the tie at 36 to end the quarter.

The Tigers gained their first lead of the night to start the fourth quarter, going up two 38-36.

Leger hit another three to keep the Rockets in the game and the lead saw-sawed back and forth until the 3:26 mark when Clay County took the lead and kept it.

The Rockets are now 4-8 on the year and play Jackson County at home this Friday night with the jayvees beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The Rockets finished fourth place in the Cumberland Falls Invitational Tournament at Corbin over the Christmas holiday.

Rockcastle dropped its last two games of the tournament, to Potomac, Virginia and then to host Corbin. Andrew Cash and Jacob Burdette

made the All-Tournament team for the Rockets.

The Rockets were up 19-11 on Potomac to end the first quarter, but a poor shooting second quarter saw Rockcastle lose the lead at halftime, down 34-29.

Potomac went on a 10-0 run in the third quarter to increase their lead to thirteen, 54-41.

Andrew Cash went down with an ankle injury early in the fourth quarter and the closest the Rockets could get was ten points, with Potomac eventually gaining the win 67-54.

The Rockets fell apart during their final game of the tournament against Corbin, losing 99-69.

Cash Clayton Cash became upset with his starters and substituted early and frequently. The Rockets could not gain any momentum against a very good Corbin team, despite cutting into the Redhound lead in the second quarter before Corbin regrouped and denied the Rockets the comeback win.

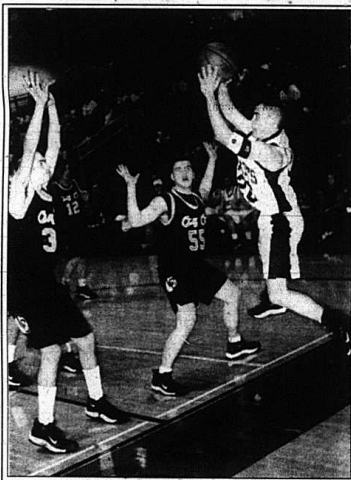
ROCKCASTLE LINESCORES

Rockcastle 16 10 10 13 49
Clay Co. 12 11 13 14 50
Nick Leger 20; Andrew Cash 18;
Matthew Brown 7; Andrew Hammond 4.

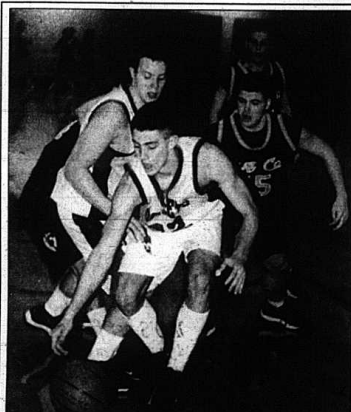
Rockcastle 19 10 12 13 54
Potomac 11 23 20 13 67
Andrew Cash 15; Andrew Hammond 14; Matthew Brown 13;
Jacob Burdette 7; Christopher Parsons 3; Nick Leger 2.

Rockcastle 14 15 21 19 69
Corbin 24 24 31 20 99

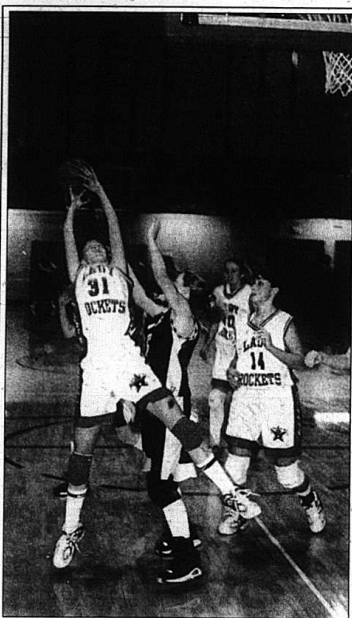
Christopher Parsons 15; Matthew Brown 11; Aaron Cash 10; Jeremy Neeley 8; Josh Rowland 8; Aaron Anderkin 6; Nick Leger 6; Jacob Burdette 3; Andrew Hammond 2.



Senior Andrew Cash and the rest of the Rockets lost by one point in rematch with district foe Clay County on Tuesday night. The Rockets dropped to 4-8 and 1-3 in district play.



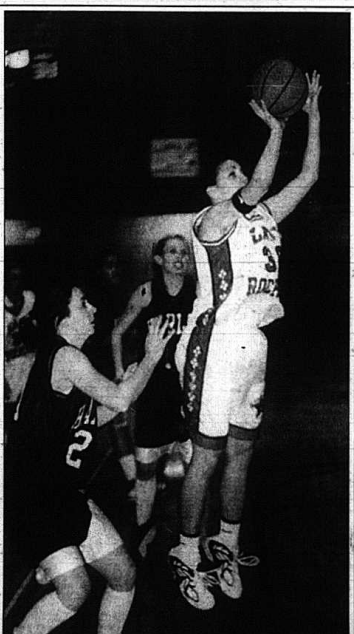
Sophomore Andrew Hammond and senior Matt Brown fight for a loose ball in Tuesday night's loss to Clay County at home. The boys play Jackson County at home Friday night in another district match up.



Junior Rachelle Hammond fights for a rebound during the hot and heavy action Tuesday night against the Clay County Tigers. The Lady Rockets avenged an earlier season loss with their 54-51 victory and also handed the Tigers their first loss of the season. Also in the photo are No. 30, Brooke Roberts and No. 14, Amber Denney.



These three Lady Rockets were named to the all-tournament team following completion of their annual Holiday Hoopla tournament, sponsored by Rockcastle Hospital. Named to the team were, from left: junior Jessie Rickles, junior Rachelle Hammond and senior Brandy Reynolds. Reynolds was leading scorer for the Rockets in the tournament, scoring 54 points in three games.



Senior Jessica Cobb goes for the goal in action against the Harlan Green Dragons in the championship game of the Lady Rockets Holiday Hoopla Tournament. Cobb contributed several rebounds and steals in the Rockets 63-58 win.

Lady Rockets defeat Harlan to win invitational

The Rockcastle Lady Rockets have struggled at times this season but that was not the case last Thursday night when they took on Harlan and the top player in the 13th Region, Tiffany Hgm, and came out on top 63-58.

It was the best game the Rockets have put together all season long and it was needed. The Rockets spotted the Green Dragons 11 points in the first quarter and had to battle back from the 14-3 deficit but battle back they did. Brooke Roberts with three and Jessica Rickles with 8 accounted for all of the Rockets 11 first quarter points, but Roberts picked up two first quarter fouls with her aggressive defense. Coach Chrysti Noble then switched Amber Falin to put the D to Ham and she and the Rockets did an admirable job on the Dragons the second quarter, leading them to 12 points while the Rockets were putting 15 on the scoreboard to only trail by three at halftime 29-26.

In the third quarter, Rachelle Hammond got the first basket for the Rockets and Brandy Reynolds put the Rockets ahead 32-31 with two at the free throw line. Roberts and Reynolds both picked up their third fouls in this quarter and were tagged with their fourth before the game was over. However, no Rocket player used all five but two Dragons hit the bench late in the game, one of them Ham with 58 ticks left on the clock.

When the smoke had cleared from

the third quarter, the Rockets starters had put 16 points on the board to the Dragons 7 and the Rockets were up 42-36.

It only got better for Rocket fans in the fourth. Hammond again got the opening basket for the Rockets, and Reynolds, with two and Rickles with one three put the Rockets up 53-40 and called for a time-out by the Dragons. After that, the Rockets seemed to lose focus, not crashing the boards well, taking the low percentage shot and it was 53-45 before Roberts could add a basket to the Rockets total. But the Dragons wouldn't say die, getting the turnover on the Rockets inbound pass to make it 57-53 and 57 with 44 seconds left in the game. The Dragons then stole the ball again on the Rockets inbound pass but Roberts picked off a Dragons pass under their basket and got the ball out to Rickles for the easy lay-up to put the Rockets ahead 61-57. A free throw for Harlan later, Reynolds finished off the scoring for the Rockets with two at the free throw line and the Lady Rockets had avenged a semi-final loss to Harlan in last year's regional tournament.

Rickles, who played an outstanding offensive and defensive game for her team, finished, with 25 points, which included three three point baskets; Reynolds got 17; Roberts scored 11 points; Hammond 9 and

(Cont. to A9)

Lady Rockets get big win over Clay County Tigers

The Lady Rockets made it two in a row in settling old scores, as they defeated the Clay County Tigers Tuesday night 54-51, ending the unbeaten Tigers 13 game win streak.

In their first meeting this season at Clay County, the Rockets were defeated 58-51 in a game which saw the girls playing catchup all night. And, it looked for a while as if Tuesday night's game would be a repeat performance. The Rockets were down 18-14 at the first quarter stop and had fallen behind 35-25 at the half.

The Rockets drew first blood in the third quarter, on a basket by Jessie Rickles but the Tigers put a basket and two free throws on the board to go up 12 at 39-27, their longest lead in the game. But the Rockets refused to quit, scoring the next 8 points to pull to within three at 39-36 only to see the Tigers outscore them 8-3 in the closing minutes of the third quarter for a 47-39 margin at the end of that period.

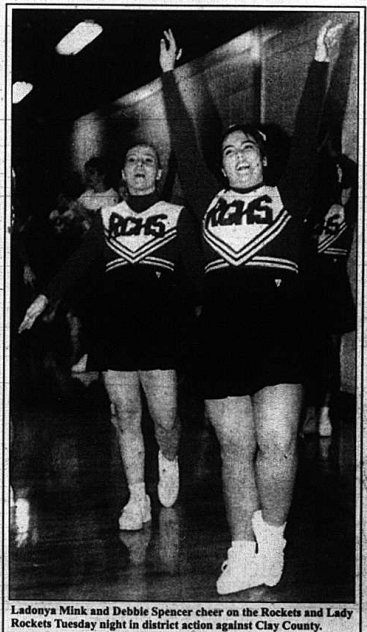
However, the fourth quarter, quite simply, belonged to the Rockets. Brooke Roberts got the first basket for her team, Brandy Reynolds then stole the ball and scored, hit a free throw and scored another basket. This was followed by a three point

basket by Jessie Rickles which tied the score at 49 all at the 2:10 mark and Reynolds followed with a basket to put the Rockets up two with 1:04 left in the game.

Clay County had tied the score at 51 all, only their second basket of the quarter, with 45 seconds left on the clock and, with 25 seconds to go, sophomore Amber Denney got a big basket to put the Rockets up 53-51. Clay County had time for another basket but junior Amber Falin had other ideas, as she knocked the ball loose with 10 seconds left on the clock. A scramble ensued and Clay got the ball on the alternate possession but a Tiger was called for a foul as she slung Roberts to the floor on the inbound play. The Rockets got the ball back and Reynolds was immediately fouled. It was their first bonus for the Rockets of the second half, with 7 seconds on the clock, and Reynolds got the free end to put the Rockets up 54-51.

The Tigers got the rebound and a last second shot but to no avail.

Jessie Rickles, who hit three three point shots, led the scoring for her team with 19; Reynolds got 15; Roberts 8; Jessica Cobb 4; Rachelle Hammond and Amber Denney 3 each and Amber Falin 2.



Ladonya Mink and Debbie Spencer cheer on the Rockets and Lady Rockets Tuesday night in district action against Clay County.