

Rockets beat OBI; lose to North Laurel

Despite a 35 point effort in the fourth quarter for Oneida Baptist, the Rockcastle Rockets came away with a district win last Friday night, 86-82.

Rockcastle came out on fire at the beginning of the game, outscoring the Mountaineers 20-10 in the first quarter, behind good, even scoring for the Rockets.

Rockcastle went on a 9-0 run to end the quarter up ten, with the Rockets big men Matthew Brown and Andrew Hammond doing all the scoring with five and four, respectively.

The Rockets also had a big second quarter, outscoring Oneida 22-16 behind two threes by senior Nick Leger to take a commanding 42-26 half-time lead.

The third quarter saw a change in the momentum, as the Mountaineers came out ready to do damage. Despite another good scoring effort by the Rockets, Oneida outscored Rockcastle 21-18 to cut the lead to thirteen, 60-47.

Although the Mountaineers scored 35 points in the fourth quarter, Rockcastle scored their own 26, behind 10 made free throws by senior Andrew Cash who finished the Mountaineers off with free throws, 86-82.

Things did not go as well Tuesday night for Rockcastle, as they visited North Laurel only to come away with their thirteenth loss of the season, 78-65.

Rockcastle started the game up 8-2, behind two threes by Leger and a

basket by Josh Rowland. North Laurel then went on a 9-0 run as the Rockets could not get into a rhythm playing defense due to some very questionable "touch" fouls called by the officials.

Rockcastle only scored five more points in the first quarter, and a technical foul assessed to the Rockets bench gave the Jaguars the 18-13 lead.

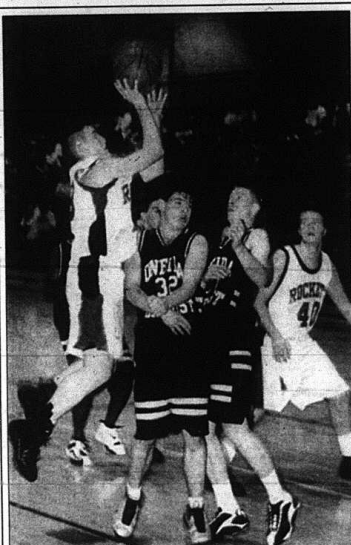
The point totals were reversed the second quarter, as Rockcastle's Matthew Brown scored nine of his twenty one points to help the Rockets tie the ballgame at halftime, 31-31.

The third quarter saw North Laurel go on a 17-3 run in the first five minutes, going up 48-34 before Andrew Cash came alive and scored nine of the Rockets next eleven points.

The fourth quarter was much the same as the third, and the Jaguars were able to extend their lead to four-teen despite good effort by the seniors Cash and Brown, who combined for eighteen of the Rockets nineteen fourth quarter points.

Rockcastle Linescores
Oneida 20 22 18 26 86
Rockcastle 10 16 21 35 82
Andrew Cash 19; Matthew Brown 17; Nick Leger 17; Andrew Hammond 14; Josh Rowland 10; Shea Taylor 8; Coffey 1.

Rockcastle 13 18 15 19 65
N. Laurel 18 13 25 22 78
Andrew Cash 24; Matthew Brown 21; Nick Leger 8; Shea Taylor 6; Josh Rowland 3; Thomas Coffey 3.



Andrew Cash goes for two of his 19 points against Oneida Saturday night. The Rockets won the game 86-82. Also in the photo is #40 Matthew Brown.

NASCAR part of America's heritage

By Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter

NASCAR has taken the sport of stock car racing from its humble southern roots to the top of the sports world and corporate board rooms. Under Bill France Jr.'s leadership, NASCAR Winston Cup attendance has increased each year since 1972, the year he took over from his father, Bill Sr. In 1999, 17 of the top 20 attended sporting events in the country were NASCAR Winston Cup events.

As NASCAR heads into the new millennium, it trails only the NFL in television sports viewership, and the end is not yet in sight. One of the reasons for its popularity is that fans are still able to relate well to the players of the sport—the drivers.

"It's simple," said France. "If we lose touch with the fans, we will stop growing. Losing touch with the fan is not an option with us. We must all make a commitment to our fans, regardless of what challenges the day brings."

"NASCAR is no longer our sport. It is a living, growing thing made up of people—millions of people. It is

"We're going to win that eighth championship," said Childress. "That's our number one goal. Dale Earnhardt can still do it and anyone who doubts it had made a big mistake."

According to Earnhardt, the team found itself behind most teams in technology at the beginning of the 1999 season. NASCAR didn't accept the new Monte Carlo and Earnhardt and his team were unable to make their 1998 cars competitive until about midway of the season.

"1999 was a pretty good turnaround for us," said Earnhardt. "We won three races and we felt like we could have won a few more. It was a pretty good year, all-in-all. I'm looking forward to the year 2000 when I think we can do even better."

"We're looking really good for 2000. We've done a lot of testing and after Talladega and Homestead with the 2000 Monte Carlo, things are coming together well."

Earnhardt and his crew chief, Kevin Hamlin will begin their second full season as a team. They seemed to be working well at the end of the 1999 season, and if that chemistry can remain intact, Earnhardt might up Richard Petty as the all-time Winston Cup Championship leader.

Even though he won three races, he did not win a pole and won't be in the Bud Shootout.

America's. It is part of America's heritage."

Part of the NASCAR 2000 campaign is for increased fan interest at the tracks on Saturday and Sunday and through television coverage. At the forefront of the program are the crew chiefs, owners, engineers, sponsors, and drivers.

Can Dale Jarrett Make It Two In A Row?

The 2000 season is going to be filled with storylines and headlines about many drivers. By now, almost everyone knows Dale Jarrett, driver of the No. 88 Quality Care Ford,

owned by Robert Yates won the 1999 Winston Cup Championship. The odds are he will be close to the leader when the checkered flag falls on this year's season.

Jarrett, the son of Ned Jarrett, who won the 1961 championship, was the model of consistency, week-in and week-out. He won four races, finished in the top-five in 24 of the 34 events. It was also the first time car owner, Robert Yates or crew chief, Todd Parrott had experienced a Winston Cup Championship.

Winning the championship was an act of perseverance. Jarrett has been competing on the Winston Cup circuit since 1984. His first victory came in 1991. Since then he's won 21 more. "My opportunity to win this championship should inspire others trying to make it," said Jarrett. "It took a lot of time, but it can be done with hard work and dedication. You just have to keep trying."

"It was 1987 before I really got a good ride. In those days, I never thought of championship. I was never with an organization I felt could win a championship. It took time and began in the right place at the right time."

In 1998, Jarrett had health problems, but in 1999, with good health, he showed what he was capable of. There is ample reason to believe that 2000 will be just as good a season for him and his team. Crew chief Todd Parrott returns. Jarrett is in his prime, and with the addition of Ricky Rudd as driver of the No. 28, the Robert Yates Racing Teams should be title contenders again in 2000.

Will the Intimidator Intimidate in 2000?

Until the second half of the 1999 Winston Cup season, many racing insiders were saying it was time for the father to move over and make way for his son. But that's not what car owner, Richard Childress believes.

Will Rebuilding Efforts Pay Off for Jeff Gordon?

For most teams who lost a crew chief and five team members, it would mean the 2000 season would be a year in which to rebuild, and not even think about winning the championship, but not Gordon. The 28-year-old has won three championships (1995, '96 & '98). He thought he and his Rainbow Warriors would have another successful year in 1999, but little did they know what in store for the No. 24 Dupont Chevrolet Team.

In September, crew chief, Ray Evernham announced he was leaving his duties to take over his own team of Dodges in 2001. This moved Brian Whiteliff into the crew chief position. Gordon talked a good talk, and even though he won two races with Whiteliff at the helm, the intensity just wasn't what it was with Evernham.

Promptly after the season-ending NAPA 500, it was announced that Whiteliff would be moved to team manager and Robbie Loomis was appointed the new crew chief for Gordon. In addition, five team

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Lady Rockets lose to Jackson and North Laurel

The Rockcastle Lady Rockets' hopes for a revenge win over district foe Jackson County came to naught last Friday night when they lost to the Lady Generals for the second time this season.

Nine first quarter points by Brandy Reynolds kept her team to within 5, 18-13, at the end of the first period but, at half-time, the Rockets had fallen behind 33-21.

The Generals increased their efforts in the third quarter and outscored the Rockets 21-9 and the fourth quarter saw the Rockets only able to manage one basket, a two pointer by Reynolds for the final 69-32.

Reynolds led the scoring with 14 points; Brooke Roberts got 9; Amber Denney 7 and Leslie Carpenter 2.

At North Laurel Tuesday night, the Rockets played the Lady Jaguars close through the first half when they were down 30-27. However, North Laurel came out in third quarter and built a 44-35 lead and increased that lead to 49-19 before six straight points by Reynolds pulled her team to within 5 at 50-45. That was as close as the Rockets would get in the game, losing 54-49.

Reynolds again led the scoring for her team with 17; Jessica Cobb turned in her strongest offensive performance of the season with 12 first half points and 16 in the game; Roberts got 6 and Jessie Ricketts, who didn't play the second half, scored 2 along with Rachelle Hammond, Amber Falin, Ashley Mink and Angie Boreing.

Jayvees lose to

Ladacy and Catholic

The Lady Rocket jayvees have also had rough times in their last two outings, losing 46-33 to Jackson

9-5 at the end of the first quarter and just increased their lead throughout the game winning 45-28.

Amy Barnett led the scoring for the Rockets with 7 points; Jessie Hayes got 5; Amber Denney 4; Ashley Mink 3 and Angie Boreing, Leslie Carpenter, Laura Beth Bell and Allison Anderkin, 2 each and Jessica Carpenter got 1.

Freshmen win two

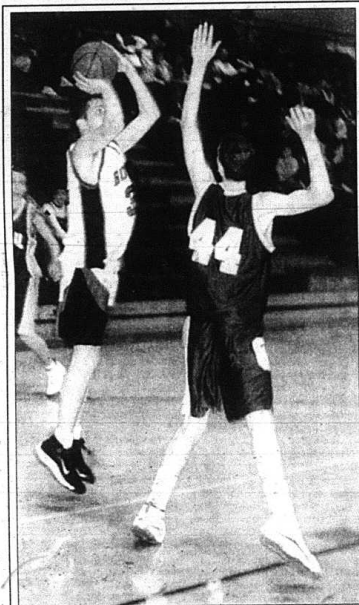
The Rocket freshmen fared a little better against Jackson Co. and Catholic, beating Jackson Co. easily 48-23 and the Lady Knights 37-31. The Rockets got down 9-7 to Jackson County in the first quarter but then came back to outscore the Lady Generals 41-14.

Ten players got in the scorebook for Coach Becky Smith against the freshmen Generals on Friday night with Amy Barnett, Brianna Bussell and Lauren Clinton leading the scoring for their team with 8 each; Johnna Abney got 7; Allison Anderkin scored 4; Tara Rowe, Stephanie Price and Rachel Childress 3 each and Jessica Carpenter and Katie Parsons, 2 each.

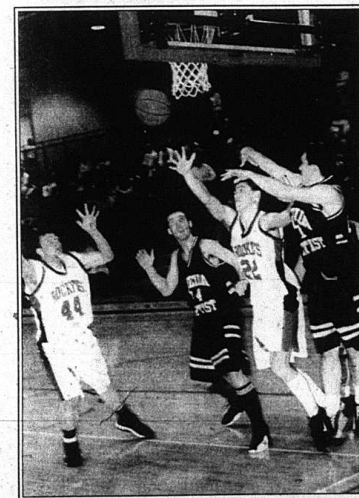
Against Lexington Catholic, Johnna Abney led the scoring with 12 points; Tara Rowe got 8; Amy Barnett 5; Brianna Bussell and Jessica Carpenter 4 each and Allison Anderkin and Lauren Clinton 2 each. County on Friday and 45-28 to Catholic on Saturday.

Against Jackson County, Leslie Carpenter turned in a 15 point performance to lead her team in scoring; Johnna Abney got 8; Amanda Barnett and Angie Boreing, 4 each and Jessie Hayes scored 2.

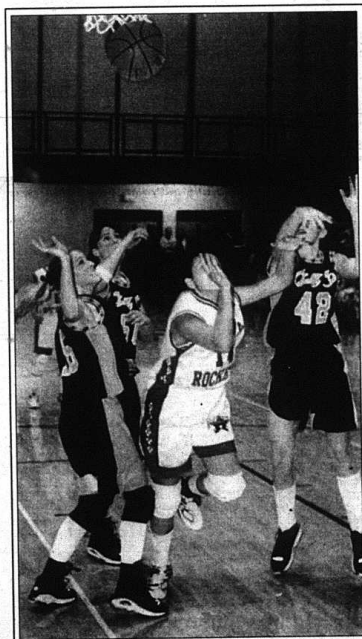
It was not the "nobody can make a basket performance" of the Rockets game against Catholic in Lexington on Saturday. Catholic was ahead



Aaron Anderkin scored 17 points in the Jayvees win over Oneida Friday night. It was the Jayvees thirteenth win of the season.



Andrew Hammond and Josh Rowland go for a rebound during the Rockets 86-82 win over Oneida Friday night. The Rockets lost Tuesday night to North Laurel, 78-65.



Amber Denney goes for a rebound in a recent Lady Rocket game. Denney got seven points in the Jackson County game and hit the boards exceptionally well.

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