

Rockets lose again

The Rockcastle County Rockets dropped their 14th loss of the season Tuesday night, being defeated by the Barbourville Tigers 61-50.

Head coach Clayton Cash received two technical fouls with less than a minute on the clock and was ejected from the game.

Rockcastle could not find the hole the first quarter, only scoring nine points to the Tigers 14, with senior Andrew Cash putting in seven of those.

Rockcastle did not fare any better the second quarter, only scoring 11 points, while Barbourville poured in 22 points to end the half up 36-20.

The third quarter was much the same as the first two, with Rockcastle scoring only 12 points, behind a good effort by Matthew Brown who contributed eight of the 12.

Despite only scoring 12 points, the momentum swung the Rockets way as they held the Tigers to ten with good defensive efforts by Cash, Christopher Parsons and Thomas Coffey.

Down 46-32 to begin the fourth quarter, Brown and Shea Taylor scored the first four unanswered points for the Rockets, cutting the lead to 10.

Good defense again by Parsons and Coffey kept the Rockets within single digits. Down eight, Cash was sent to the free throw line to shoot three, making them one to bring the Rockets to within five.

Cash fouled out on the next Tiger possession, sending Barbourville to the line where they connected on the second free throw to go up six.

Rockcastle could not score on their next possession and Taylor fouled out on the Tigers possession with 33 seconds to go.

Cash argued the call on Taylor, receiving his first technical, and sending Barbourville to the line where they connected on three of four free throws to effectively remove the Rockets from any contention.

Cash then received his second technical foul, thus sending

Barbourville to the line again. Rockcastle could not score on their remaining possessions, giving the Tigers the 61-50 win.

Rockcastle Linecore

Barbourville 14 22 10 15 61
Rockcastle 9 11 12 18 50
Matthew Brown 21; Andrew Cash 15; Shea Taylor 5; Andrew Hammond 4; Christopher Parsons 2; Josh Rowland 2; Aaron Cash 1.

Rocket Jayvees win close one

The Rocket Jayvee team won a close one Tuesday night against Barbourville, 41-39.

The score was tied at 39 with 3 seconds to go before Jeremy Neely was sent to the line and sank both free throws.

Neely was high point man of the night with 17. The Jayvee team is now 13-4 on the season.

J.V. Linecores

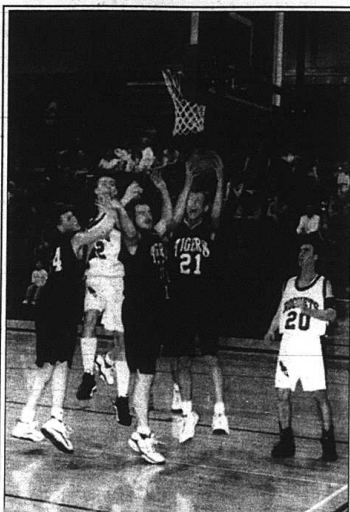
Barbourville 6 11 11 11 39
Rockcastle 13 8 12 8 41
Jeremy Neely 17; Aaron Cash 8; Thomas Coffey 6; Aaron Andenkin 5; Austin Miller 3; Jason Reynolds 2.

O.B.L. 11 7 14 11 43
Rockcastle 19 11 13 8 51
Jeremy Neely 19; Aaron Andenkin 17; Thomas Coffey 7; Chris Settles 4; Jason Reynolds 2; Austin Miller 2.

Freshman Linecores

Rockcastle 10 14 6 12 3 45
Lincoln 9 12 13 8 2 44
Aaron Andenkin 13; Aaron Cash 10; Austin Miller 9; Jason Reynolds 6; Stephen Boring 4; Chris Settles 3.

N. Laurel 10 7 10 8 35
Rockcastle 4 20 11 2 37
Aaron Andenkin 14; Austin Miller 11; Jason Reynolds 8; Chris Settles 4.



Andrew Hammond fights for a rebound during the Rockets 61-50 loss to Barbourville Tuesday night. The loss was the Rockets fourteenth of the season. Also in the photo is #20 Andrew Cash.

Outdoors in Rockcastle

Rockcastle's Deer Season Improves
By Mike Carpenter

During the late 1800's there was a huge demand for fur bearing animals and this was the beginning of market hunting for the white tail deer.

Thousands and thousands of deer were killed and shipped to all parts of the world for their meat and hides. With no hunting laws then the deer herd went from millions to less than 500,000 in the United States.

Chase Benjamin, a market hunter from Michigan, was credited with killing 2,796 deer in a 29 year period. That is an average of over 100 deer a year, keep in mind this just one market hunter.

In 1885, there was estimated 350,000 in the United States. Finally, some responsible people joined together to form the most incredible conservation effort ever done in history. Today there is over 17 million whitetail deer in the U.S. This didn't happen over night, it was a slow process of game laws, educating people and research into the habits of the whitetail deer.

Some people have told me that back in the 50's and early 60's, it was rare to see deer in Rockcastle County. If you did it was the talk of the town. Boy, things sure have changed and improved since then.

Here are some interesting facts and information about what is going on now with our hunting season and our deer herd.

After checking with the KDFW, I was able to get some information about our county's deer harvest for the 1999-2000 Season! The 1999-2000 deer season here in Rockcastle County, was one of the best we have had, with the new zone changes, enabling us to take a buck or doe during the archery season and ex-

tending our modern gun season from 5 days of hunting to 10 days of hunting really helped improve our chances of taking a deer!

There were a total of 34 deer (24 does, 10 bucks) taken in the county this year during archery season. This was a major increase compared to the 11 deer taken during the 1998-1999 season. The two days in October and five days in December, Muzzeladeo Season, the number of deer taken were down a little but with 26 deer taken. During the 10 day modern gun season there were 143 deer taken. There were a total of 194 deer taken all together in Rockcastle County this past deer season. This total is up from the 1998 season when there were 140 deer taken, and even better than the 1997 season when 117 deer were taken.

I recently talked with John Gaston, our new deer coordinator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, and asked him what he thought about the deer herd in Rockcastle County. John stated that not only was the number of deer getting better, but so was the quality of the deer. He also said that Rockcastle County had a good healthy deer herd and that it is just going to get better.

There were some great deer taken this year in Rockcastle County, such as the giant buck Tim Stewart took during the muzzeladeo season or that wide rack monster that Lee Newcomb took during the modern gun season. And all of the other big bucks that we haven't heard about yet.

There is no doubt about it, Rockcastle County has its share of big bucks taken this past season. So next season instead of going to other counties to hunt, spend a little time scouting right here in Rockcastle County. By the way, now is a great time to scout for next season's deer. Bucks

Lady Rocket Freshmen end season at 14-4

By: Chad Henley

On Friday, Coach Dawn Quiley's Lady Rockets took on an Estill Co. team they had earlier defeated 45-20 but, on this night, it was a different story as Rockcastle co. won by just four points, 30-26.

In the first half, the Lady Rockets looked as if they were going to run away with this game's win, taking a 23-13 lead with just a handful of turnovers.

The second half however saw the Rockets turn the ball over time and again to the Lady Engineers, ending with 21 turnovers to the Engineers 26.

Seventh grader Johnna Ahney led all scorers with 10.

On Saturday, The Lady Rockets traveled to Harlan Co. to play in the Cawood Freshman Tournament at Wallins Elementary School.

The day started off poorly as Rockcastle fell behind to Whitesburg by as many as seven points in the second quarter, but their defense finally started to lay much better and the score was even at 15 all after two quarters.

An outstanding third quarter broke the game open for Rockcastle as Jessie Hayes cannot a pair of threes and Allison Andenkin scored all of her five points in the quarter.

The fourth quarter was another story as the Lady Jackets turned up the pressure and outscored RCHS 20-15 but the Rockets prevailed for the 48-41 win. Again, Ahney led all scoring with 15 points.

The Rockets second game of the day was right after their first and it saw a less than average Corbin Lady Hounds team have their best game of the tournament. RCHS had previously defeated Corbin 55-15 but in this game, the Rockets hurt themselves at the free throw line, going 9 for 20. Three point shooting was the key to a Rockcastle victory with Hayes finishing with four and Ahney with two. The Lady Rockets turned the ball over 23 times to

Corbin's 25 and Hayes led the scoring with 18 points.

The last game of the day saw the rockets start out hot as Hayes hit a three and then Ahney knocked down a three and a lay-up to take an 8-0 lead over an extremely physical Cawood team. This called for a quick time-out by the Cawood coach after when the Trijannettes went on a 15-4 run to end the first quarter.

Lack of energy started to show on both teams, but more from the Lady Rockets and foul trouble was also a key factor with Rockcastle with three starters with three fouls at the half.

Surprisingly, in this game, turnovers were not the case as Cawood led that category 22-16.

RCHS 11 12 4 3 30
Estill 3 10 5 8 26
Johnna Ahney 10; Brianna Bussell 6; Jessica Carpenter 4; Allison Andenkin 2; Amanda Rogers 2; Rachel Childress 2; Jessica Riddle 2; Amy Barnett 1 and Stephanie Price 1.

RCHS 8 7 18 15 48
W'Burg 11 4 6 20 41
Ahney 15; Hayes 12; Bussell 10; Andenkin 5; Tara Rowe 4 and Barnett 2.

RCHS 16 13 9 9 47
Corbin 10 9 5 12 36
Hayes 18; Ahney 9; Andenkin 8; Katie Parsons 3; Barnett 2; Jessica Thacker 2; Rowe 2; Price 2 and Bussell 1.

RCHS 12 13 5 15 45
Cawood 15 19 14 8 56
Ahney 17; Rowe 11; Hayes 10; Barnett 2; Bussell 2; Andenkin 2; Parsons 1.

Cawood Tournament Record
Cawood 3-0
Rockcastle 2-1
Whitesburg 1-2
Corbin 0-3

Rockcastle Co. High School DANCE

When: Feb. 25, 2000

Where: School Cafeteria

Time: Following the Basketball Game (9 pm to 12am)

Admission: \$3 single, \$5 double

Proceeds go to the Class of 2000 Project Graduation Fund

Door Prize To Be Given

Last Chance to Sign Up for Little League Baseball

WHO?

Boys & Girls 6-12 years old as of 8/1/2000

WHERE?

Rockcastle Co. Middle School Cafeteria

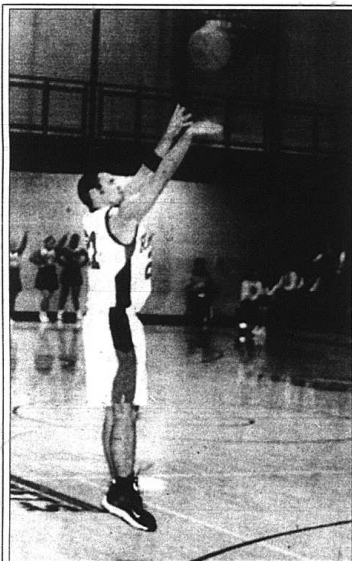
TIME?

Sat., Feb. 26th • 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Or bring your application to
Rite-Aid Pharmacy
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Thru Friday, February 25th

COST?

\$30 First child
\$20 Second Child
\$15 Third Child



Christopher Parsons goes for three in the Rockets loss to Barbourville Tuesday night.

Girl's track team wins Panther Indoor Games

The Rockcastle County High School track and field team recently completed at the 16th Annual Panther Indoor Games in

Frankfort. Poor weather conditions were not enough to keep the competition away as twenty-five high schools made the trip for the first indoor meet of the new millennium.

The girls' team had their best indoor meet ever and dominated the competition. They easily defeated last year's indoor state championship team and Panther Indoor Games champion, Fleming County, by an amazing 28-2 points. The girls' also defeated Louisville Ballard, Bowling Green, South Oldham, Bishop Brossart, Scott County, Madison Central, Louisville Manual and Bryan Station, all of which were among the more notable teams. The girls also improved tremendously upon last year's 8th place finish, while scoring 61.2 points more than they did at last season's competition.

In the 50-meter dash, 8th grader Shoema Swinney stunned the entire field of 98 runners with a tie for first place. Shoema actually covered the 50 meters in 7.01, but her time was rounded up to 7.1.

(Cont. to A11)

A complete wrap-up of RCMS Basketball will appear in next week's Signal



The Rockcastle County Rocket Cheerleaders participated in the Regional KAPOS Cheerleading Competition last weekend at Cumberland High School. They placed first in district, first in region and first in 2.5 minute co-ed and also received the K-Pepp Award. Pictured above are front row, Cathie Midkiff. Second row from left: Crystal Mink and Angela Owens. Third row from left: Tara Burton, Debbie Spencer, Erica Kirby, coach Rhonda Rose, Jennifer Carmack, and Shakisha Saylor. Fourth row from left: Jessica Jones, Elizabeth Matekovich, Ashley Miller, Brittany Asher, Ladonya Mink, Cheshen Stratton, and John Hankins.