

Lady Rockets fall just short in district tourney

They gave it their all, the first half belonged to them entirely, but in the end, the Clay Co. Lady Tigers second half defense and superior size brought the Lady Rockets down in first round action of the 49th District Tournament 63-57.

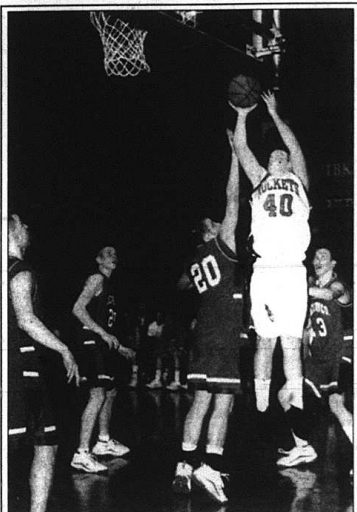
Lady Rocket fans had a lot to cheer about in the first half as junior Jessie Rickels played inspired defense on the Tigers, swiping the ball three times from an above-average ball handling team. She also sank two three point baskets to help her team to their 37-32 half-time lead.

Senior Brooke Roberts, playing her best game of the season, put on an offensive display for Rocket fans, sinking six goals, one a three, and a free throw to lead the Rockets in scoring the first half with 14.

Sophomore Amber Denney came off the bench when starting center Jessica Cobb was tagged with two personals early to score six points in the first half.

Senior Brandy Reynolds contributed five points the first half, but her main contribution came in her nose-

(Cont. to A11)



Matthew Brown goes for two of his 19 points against Jackson County last Wednesday night. The Rockets won 100-87 but lost to Clay County 64-55 in the finals of the 49th District Tournament.

Outdoors in Rockcastle

Wild Turkeys: Part One
By Mike Carpenter

The stories I am going to do this week and next week are going to talk about the wild turkey, some history, restoration and how they are doing both statewide and in Rockcastle County today. Next week's article is going to cover the upcoming spring turkey season, how our harvest has been over the past few years, and we are going to get some tips from some of Rockcastle County's most successful turkey hunters. I hope you will enjoy this two part story on the bird that Benjamin Franklin wanted to be our national bird.

There are four subspecies of wild turkey in the United States - Eastern, Merriam, Rio Grande and the Ocella. Here in Kentucky we have the Eastern Wild Turkey.

The wild turkey is very different from their domesticated cousins. Wild turkey have larger brains than farm turkeys, which is important living in the wild. They are slimmer, with the male adult turkeys weighing from 17-28 pounds and the adult female weighing from 8-12 pounds.

Wild turkey's diet consists of insects, clover, acorns and other vegetation. Wild turkey hens nest on the ground laying usually around 11 eggs. Laying starts in mid-April with a 28 day incubation period. Predators such as bobcats, coyotes and owls make

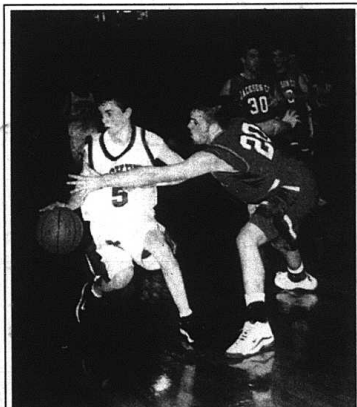
life hard for the young turkeys which are called poults, but rain and cold temperatures are probably the most detrimental things in the first few days of the poult's life. After about eight days the young poults can fly, this increases their odds of survival. By the time winter approaches the young male turkeys, called Jakes, will usually break off into bachelor groups. While the young female tur-

keys will stay with the mother hen. All wild turkeys roost at night in trees for protection. The best defense a wild turkey has is its incredible eye sight. If you have ever tried hunting them you will know this is true. Trying to call a wild turkey into shotgun or bow range is a real challenge and in next week's article you will find some tips to help you.

During the 1800's there were an estimated ten million wild turkeys in the United States, but by the 1950's, because of unregulated hunting and habitat destruction, their numbers had been reduced to only 30,000 birds nationwide. In 1946 the only known population of wild turkey in Kentucky were found in Western Kentucky at Land Between the Lakes.

In 1954, pen raised turkeys were released in hope that they would re-

(Cont. to A9)



Shes Taylor puts the brakes on as a Jackson County defender tries to swipe the ball during Rocket action last Wednesday night. The Rockets hit the century mark in the game with a 100-87 victory.

Sports Shorts

Hunter Education Course

Free Hunter Education Course March 16 and 17 6 to 9 p.m. and March 18 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pine Grove Shooting Sports, Hwy. 1955 - Big Hill. (Rockcastle and Jackson line). For more info. call Darrell Combs 965-3018, Russell Pennington 364-3243 or Pine Grove Shooting Sports 965-3995.

Fundraiser

Second fundraising for Wildcat Mountain Long Beards Membership Banquet for the National Wild Turkey Federation will be Fri., March 10th at 7:30 p.m. at RCMS. Doors open at 6 p.m. Along with the banquet, there will be door prizes and auction. For more info. call Tony Mahaffey at 256-4805; Larry Hensley at 256-9481; Jerry Martin at 453-9906; Mike McGuire at 256-5184 or Joan Garrison at 758-8030.

Rockets take runner-up in 49th lose close one to Corbin, 56-52

For the third straight year, the Rockcastle County Rockets advanced to the 13th Region Tournament, only to fall short to the favorite Corbin Redhounds, 56-52.

If Rockcastle had won, it would have been the biggest upset in the state, as Corbin is ranked 7th in the state in teams remaining in regional action.

Rockcastle, behind the best defense they have played this season, took the Redhounds completely out of their offensive game.

Senior Andrew Cash hit three 3's in the first quarter to give Rockcastle the 13-11 lead.

Rockcastle maintained a one point 23-22 lead at halftime behind their defense and five defensive rebounds by Matthew Brown, who also scored five points. Cash added the other five points in the second quarter.

Rockcastle's big men were all over the Redhounds in the third quarter, despite being outscored 14-11. Brown and Andrew Hammond were

the only two scorers in the third, with 9 and 2 respectively.

The Rockets ended the quarter down two, 36-34.

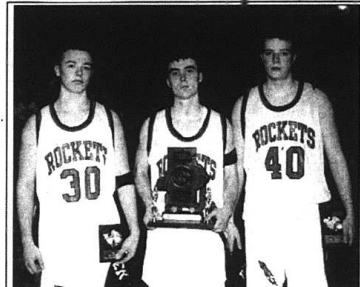
It was a hard fought fourth quarter that started with a pretty dish from Christopher Parsons to Matthew Brown to tie the score at 36. Four made free throws by Cash kept the score tied at 40 and the Rockets had a chance to take the lead on an old fashion three by Brown, who did not connect on the free throw.

Corbin gained their biggest lead of the night 48-42 before Parsons hit a jumper to keep the Rockets to within four.

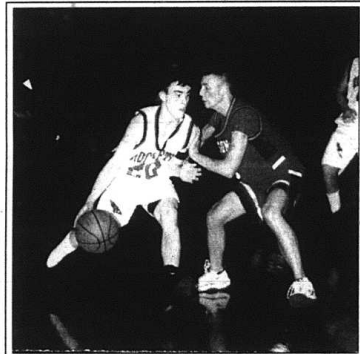
A steal by Parsons on the following Corbin possession gave the Rockets the ball back and Brown laid it in to bring the Rockets within two, 48-46.

Corbin made it to the double bonus with 1:20 left on the clock, sinking both free throws to extend their lead back to four.

(Cont. to A11)



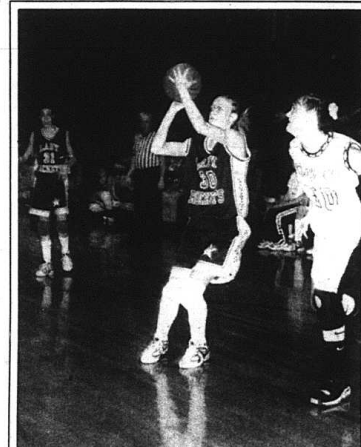
Seniors Nick Leger, Andrew Cash and Matthew Brown were named to the All-Tournament Team for the 49th District.



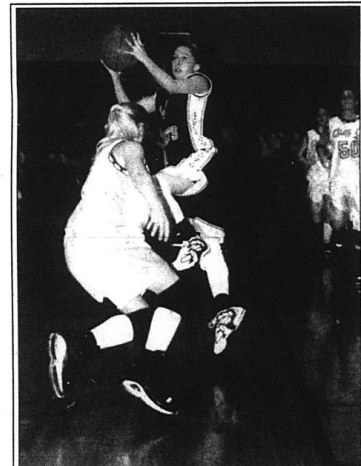
Andrew Cash scored 39 points for the Rockets in their first round win over Jackson County in the 49th District Tournament. Cash ended his career Tuesday night as the all-time leading scorer at RCHS with 1,905 points.



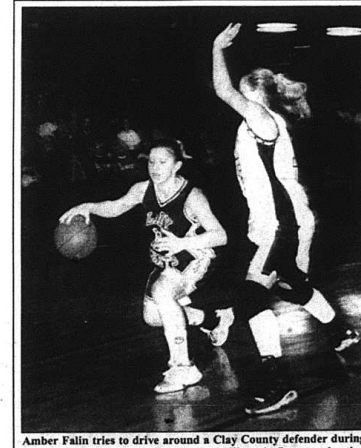
Statistician Matthew Hayes, escorted by his parents, Henry and Rita Hayes, was honored during the Rockets last home game along with other senior ball players, cheerleaders and band members.



Senior Brooke Roberts goes for two of her 19 points in the Lady Rockets 63-57 loss to the Lady Tigers in first round action of the district tournament. Roberts led the Lady Rockets in scoring and earned herself a spot on the 49th District All-Tournament team.



Junior Jessie Rickels scored 19 points and played good defense but the Lady Rockets still fell short 63-57 to the Clay County Lady Tigers last Thursday night. Rickels was named to the 49th District All-Tournament team.



Amber Falin tries to drive around a Clay County defender during the Lady Rockets 63-57 loss to the Lady Tigers in first round action of the district tournament.

Southeastern Ky. Gun Collectors
Gun & Knife Show
The Center, Somerset, Ky.
March 11th & 12th
9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday
Buy, Sell & Trade
For info. call 606-436-0570 or 606-847-4047