

13-and-under girls win Bluegrass State Games Basketball Championship

The Rockcastle County girls' 13 and under AAU basketball team competed in the Bluegrass State Games this past weekend in Lexington at Jessie Clark Middle School. Several teams from around the state were on hand for the annual tournament of the state's best 13 and under girls' basketball teams.

Rockcastle County, coached by David Owens, dominated the competition and won the Bluegrass State Games Championship in four straight games. The team went undefeated for the entire tournament.

The first game for the girls came on Saturday against the Derby City Dragons of Louisville. Derby City outsize the girls, but proved no match in heart. Rockcastle easily defeated them 40-27 with excellent defense and rebounding. Katie Parsons and Stephanie Price led the scoring with 10 each and both pulled down several rebounds. Both Johnny Abney and Tara Rowe played outstanding defense and scored nine and six points, respectively. Ashley Kimbrell pulled down several rebounds and scored four, while Ashley Bell played great defense and contributed two points. Krystal Parsons, Gina McClure, and Ashley Mize came off the bench to provide steady offense and solid defense.

In the second game of the afternoon, Rockcastle also had an easy victory. They defeated Russell County 41-29 to remain in the winner's bracket of the tournament.

Johnna Abney poured in a team and tournament high 22 points, while going nine for nine from the free throw line. Johnna made 22 of 24 free throws for the tournament including a string of 21 in a row. Tara Rowe scored eight and dished out several assists, while Ashley Kimbrell had seven points and numerous rebounds. Katie Parsons had four points along with solid defensive play. Stephanie Price and Lauren Clontz controlled the boards pulling down countless rebounds.

Game three matched Rockcastle against the tournament favorite, Morehead Shooters, a select group of players boasting over 100 sponsors, as well as several hundred applicants for the team. The team had even advertised on the Internet in hopes of bringing in the best talent available. As it turned out, all of the websites in the world would not have been enough to help them turn back a ferocious Rockcastle team bent on avenging last season's losses. Johnna Abney led the scoring with 14, including six for six from the line in the fourth quarter. Ashley Kimbrell rebounded well and scored nine points. Tara Rowe and Katie Parsons scored six each. The girls combined excellent team defense with clutch free throw shooting in the final minutes and held on for the 35-30 win.

The championship game was played on Sunday afternoon. The girls had expected to play Morehead again; however, the Shooters were defeated

by 19 points at the hands of a revitalized Derby City team. Rockcastle struggled early in the game due to tough defensive pressure by Derby City and trailed 21-18 at halftime. By the end of the third quarter, the deficit had grown to four points and several players were in foul trouble. Gina McClure, Ashley Mize, Krystal Parsons and Ashley Bell came off the bench to provide solid defense and keep Rockcastle in the game. The girls turned up the intensity and outscored Derby City 19-8 in the final period to claim the 50-43 win. Tara Rowe had her best game of the tournament and led the charge in the fourth quarter, scoring 11 of her game high 20 points. She also played excellent defense. Johnna Abney also played outstanding defense and poured in 13 points, including two three-pointers. Johnna also dished out six assists. Lauren Clontz pulled down several rebounds and scored six points. Stephanie Price also helped control the boards and had four points. Ashley Bell and Ashley Kimbrell scored two each and had several key rebounds.

The team was crowned Bluegrass State Games Champions and received gold medals in the awards ceremony following the game. The team was also privileged enough to attend a photo session at the Seaton Center on the University of Kentucky campus. The girls are now 4-0 and remain undefeated this AAU season.



Members of the 13 and under AAU team which recently won the Bluegrass State Games are pictured above, front row from left: Ashley Mize, Stephanie Price, Gina McClure, Tara Rowe, and Johnna Abney. Back row from left: Ashley Kimbrell, Katie Parsons, Krystal Parsons, Lauren Clontz, Ashley Bell and coach David Owens.



The following RCMS 8th grade band members participated in the 2nd Annual 2000 District 11 Middle School Honors Band this past weekend. The students, along with nearly 100 other young musicians from the area, rehearsed for approximately eight hours a day, culminating in a concert given at the Danville High School Performing Arts Center on Saturday evening. Members are from left: Scott Cain, Jessi Denny, Josh Ott, Jessie Blevins, Sarah Mullins, Amy Gilleand, and Amy Elliott.



The Rockin Rockets would like to thank everyone for a great season. They are pictured above, front row from left: Andrea Wynn, Heather Spires, Courtney Bullock, Emily Renner. Back row, from left: coach Diane Stewart, Carla Rowe, Meredith Robinson, Ashley Stewart, Leanne Holden and coach Diane Holden. The team would like to say a special thanks to all the parents who brought their girls to ball practice and the ball games. Also thanks to Steve Griffin at Apollo Pizza.

Outdoors in Rockcastle

By Mike Carpenter
Wild Turkeys Part II

The upcoming 2000 spring turkey season starts April 17th and last through May 7th with a big limit of two male turkeys or turkeys with visible beards. The daily limit is one bird per day and the shooting hours are one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. You must have a hunting license and a spring turkey permit. The cost of this year's hunting license are \$12.50 and the spring turkey permit is \$17.50. Be sure and pick up a copy of the 2000 Kentucky Turkey Hunting Guide so you can find out all of the current laws and regulations.

Although the 1999 spring turkey harvest numbers were down a little from 1998, the 2000 spring turkey season should be a good one. If the warm temperatures continue there should be a little more foliage on the trees this year, that always helps with concealment and the shots on the turkeys will be closer. Warmer temperatures will also help with the hen's nesting, which makes calling a gobbler much easier.

If you are a beginner turkey hunter and you want to learn how to turkey hunt, Wal-Mart has a great selection of instructional turkey hunting videos that will teach you how to call

turkeys, how to locate turkeys, and equipment you will need for turkey hunting.

Here are a few tips I got from some of Rockcastle County's most successful turkey hunters: Be sure and pattern your shotgun, camo from head to toe, use very little movement, don't talk to turkeys prior to season, don't think you have to be a great caller to kill a turkey, learn how to yelp and cluck and you will be successful at calling turkeys. A friction call such as a state call are the easiest to master and they should be more realistic. Remember scouting prior to season will help you more than anything. Get up early and go to different locations before daylight and listen for turkeys to gobble and write down on a topo map how many turkeys you heard gobble this way when season comes in you will have plenty of places to hunt.

Here are the number of birds we've harvested in Rockcastle County over the past few years:

In 1993, 12 birds were harvested; 1994, 43; 1995, 40; 1996, 93; 1997, 118; 1998, 140 and 1999, 92.

If you have never turkey hunted, get out there and give it a try, it will add a new challenge to your hunting. Good luck this turkey season. So get

out and take your kids, the future outdoors men and women of Rockcastle County, and enjoy God's great outdoors.

T-Ball Signups March 25th

T-Ball Signups will be held Saturday, March 25th at Thacker Field from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Signups are for boys and girls age 5 to 6 on August 1, 1999.

Classified Deadline is Noon Tuesday



Three Rockcastle County High School basketball players joined the 1,000 point club for their careers. From left: Matthew Brown scored 1,035 points, Brandy Reynolds scored 1,063 points and Andrew Cash ended his career as all-time leading scorer at RCHS with 1,905 points. Brown and Cash were also named to the 13th All-Region team.

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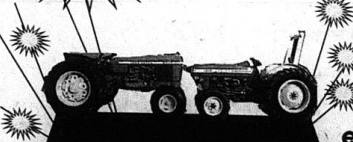
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