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JUN 1 2000

Rockcastle County High School

Volume XVI Number VII

May 26, 2000

Reactions to new drug testing policy vary

by Lindsey Parsons

It has been talked about, and rumors that it might occur have been circulating throughout Rockcastle County. Finally, on April 11 it was made official: the athletes at Rockcastle County High School will be tested for drugs.

The policy, which the board has been considering for two years, will take effect in the 2000-2001 school year and include anyone who participates in a sport. The eligibility will be made in compliance with applicable policies, administrative procedures, and Kentucky High School Athletic Association requirements. In order to participate, athletes and parents must sign a written consent. The fact that only athletes

will be tested has upset a few throughout RCHS.

Baseball coach Ryan Riddle feels that either no one or everyone should be tested. "That means teachers, coaches, central office personnel, and school board members. Why single out athletes?" he commented.

However, athletes are singled out because they are role models for other students and represent our school. They volunteer to participate in sports which means that they can be tested. Students are required to go to school, however, so they can't be tested.

But what about everyone involved in other extracurricular activities?

Freshman football player Tanner Abney feels "they shouldn't

give it to just athletes. They should give it to anyone who stays after school for anything."

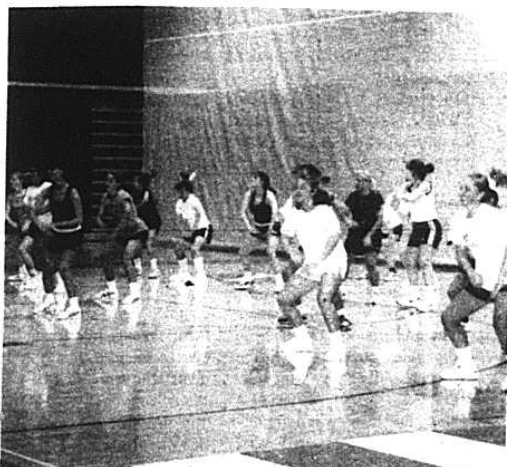
"I think it's a great idea but why just pick on athletes? Why not clubs?" cheerleading coach Rhonda Rose said.

Sponsors of other sports believe in much the same way.

Girls' basketball coach Christie Noble believes "that it is a good policy. Athletes are often role models for many young children and should uphold high standards. I feel like other groups should be tested also that participate in after school activities."

Head football coach Tom Larkey agrees. "I believe every-

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Cheerleaders are among the RCHS athletes that will be affected by the new drug testing policy at the high school. Pictured above is the RCHS Varsity squad at practice.

Four Governor's Scholars chosen from RCHS

by Courtney Alexander

Rockcastle County High School has proven once again that its students are the "cream of the crop". Four RCHS juniors have been chosen to represent Rockcastle this summer in the Governor's Scholars Program.

"This is a very prestigious award by any means. It's always nice to see students rewarded for their hard work and exceptional abilities," commented RCHS principal Ms. Ruth Allen.

The Governor's Scholars Program is a five-week, residential summer program for outstanding Kentucky high school students. It offers an academic and personal growth experience for upcoming seniors who have demonstrated exceptional intelligence and creative ability.

Those students representing Rockcastle this summer will be: Mindy Bullock, Chelsen Stratton, Ashley Lawson, and Amanda Chism.

According to RCHS counselor Mr. Dale Whitaker, "All of these

girls excel tremendously in everything they do. Their overall character is exceptional and exactly what the Governor's Scholars program is looking for."

Recipients learned of their acceptance on April 17.

"I only read the first line of my letter that day, which told me I was accepted. I was so excited!" exclaimed Chelsen Stratton.

In the past, students have been chosen for GSP because of their exceptional test scores. However, in recent years GSP has begun to look at the overall person. By looking at community service, club involvement, schooling, and writing ability on top of test scores, GSP finds the top all-around students for its program.

"All of our recipients are excellent writers," stated Mr. Whitaker. "I was very impressed by each of their essays to GSP."

"To have four Governor's Scholars shows the caliber of students here at the ROCK," Ms. Allen expressed with pride.

Rachelle Hammond was cho-



Tom Mills Jr. was chosen for Governor's School for the Arts. Students chosen for 2000 GSP were (from left to right): Mindy Bullock, Ashley Lawson, Amanda Chism, and Chelsen Stratton.

sen as an alternate scholar.

"The odds are high that Rachelle will also be chosen to participate in GSP this summer," stated Mr. Whitaker.

Rockcastle has never had more than four GSP participants in a single year. If five are chosen this year it will break that record. Many schools don't have any students chosen for the Governor Scholar's Program, therefore once

again Rockcastle has set the standard.

As if our abundance of Governor's Scholars wasn't enough, Tom Mills Jr. has been selected to participate in the Governor's School for the Arts. Over 1,000 high school sophomores and juniors auditioned for this opportunity to showcase their talents. Only 200 of those students were invited to attend how-

ever.

GSA participants will get the chance to study with distinguished teaching artists. Not to mention the opportunity to audition for scholarships to the nation's top colleges and universities.

"I'm looking forward to the whole Governor's Scholars experience, but at the same time I'm really going to miss my family," expressed Ashley Lawson.