

Last undefeated team was the 63' Red Devils

The last time a Rockcastle County High School football team went undefeated was the Fall of 1963.

It was also the first year for eleven man football at Mt. Vernon High School.

The coach was Larry Travis and the assistant was Wayne Berry.

The 1963 team finished seven and 0, but did not qualify for the playoffs because they had not played enough teams in their district.

The Red Devils, who had a 22 man roster, opened their season with a 20-6 win over visiting Burgin.

But the score was not indicative of the game, which saw the Red Devils fall behind 6-0 in the fourth quarter.

But on the kick-off, Tommy Hodges returned the ball 55 yards for the score and the game was tied at 6.

The Red Devils held Burgin and on the ensuing punt Shannon Hellard ran the ball back 65 yards and the Red Devils led 12-6.

The Red Devils widened their lead to 20-6 when Charles "Chock" Machal scampered around right end for a 35 yard touchdown run.

The Red Devils added the extra two points when quarterback Bobby Hayes found Bill Price in the end zone.

That year the Red Devils had two wins over Burgin, two over Paint Lick, two over Camp Dick Robinson and one over Madison Central.

Other members of the team were: Jerry Makin, Jerry Hines, Douglas Rickels, Nicky Williams, Larry Towery, Clark "Joe" Mullins, Charles Norton, Dr. G.W. Griffith, Jimmy Kendrick, Ronnie Reppert, James Davis, Jimmy Whitaker, A.B. Thomason, Tommy Moore and Earl Price.

Rockets beat Bell

(Cont. from front)

"I told the players that when this is all over and we don't have to concentrate on a new team every week - we will have time to reflect on what we have accomplished as a team - it has been a really outstanding season so far," he said.

The Rockets defense, which has accounted for fifteen touchdowns this season stepped up big against Bell County.

Bell County had much better field position than the Rockets the entire game, but the Rocket D was too much for the Bobcats.

The defense allowed Bell County only 82 yards of total offense and they put two scores on the board as

well.

The Rocket defense got the scoring going when junior Clay Dooley picked off a Bell County pass in the first period and returned it 25 yards for the score.

Senior Greg Terry's kick was good and the Rockets were ahead 7-0. In the second period, Rockcastle extended their lead when senior Greg Harper caught a Christopher Parsons pass which was good for 66 yards.

The Rockets led 13-0 at halftime.

In the third period, the Rocket defense stepped up again when senior Derrick Russell picked off another Bell County pass and returned it 42 yards for the score.

The Rockets led 19-0 after the two point conversion failed.

In the fourth period, Clay Dooley scored his second touchdown of the night when he took a handoff up the middle on a five yard run.

Terry added the extra point and the Rockets led 25-0, which was also the final score.

The Rocket varsity defense has given up only four touchdowns all season long.

All together the Rockets have allowed only 43 points to be scored on them and are ranked number one in the state in that category.

The Rockets are also ranked number one in rushing defense in the state. For the year they have given up only 428 total yards. They are also ranked fifth in the state in passing defense allowing only 412 yards for the entire year.

Coach Larkey credited his defense with Friday night's win - saying after the game that they played incredibly.

On offense, Parsons was three for eleven passing for 86 yards and a touchdown. He had 23 yards on five carries and he threw one interception.

Bussell gained 34 yards on nine carries and scored a touchdown on the interception.

Dooley had 84 yards on eleven carries and scored on touchdown rushing and one on an interception.

Sophomore Marty Reagan had 27 yards on four carries.

Junior Josh Hale had eight yards on one catch and Greg Harper had 76 yards on two catches. He also scored a touchdown.

Junior Josh Taylor had eight yards on two carries and P.J. Rowe had 23 yards on four carries.

Aaron Anderkin had two yards on a carry.

Greg Terry was two for three in extra point kicks and he had an excellent punt in the third quarter to pin the Bobcats inside the ten.

All total the Rockets had 287 yards of offense.

Defensively the Rockets were led by linebackers Travis Ingram and Greg Harper. Ingram had 15 tackles and assists and Harper had 12. Both players had two sacks.

Marty Reagan picked up 10 tackles and assists while Josh Hale had six tackles and assists.

Sean Smith and William Blair had six tackles apiece, while Dackery Larkey picked up four as did Tanner Abney.

Clay Dooley and Derrick Bussell each had two tackles and each one of them picked off passes they returned for touchdowns.

Adam Childress had two tackles and assists.

Senior Heath Payne made an outstanding defensive play when he recovered a Bell County fumble on an outside kick.

The Rockets will host Lawrence County in the opening round of the play-offs on Friday night.

Although Lawrence County is 5-5 this season, they were the team that put Rockcastle out of the play-offs last year when they dismantled the ROCK 48-14 in the regional championship game.

Lawrence County also had the state's leading rusher in Michael West, a junior who has gained over 2,200 yards this year.

West had over 300 yards last Friday night in the Bulldogs 66-15 win over East Carter.

West is also the state's second leading scorer with 32 touchdowns this season and he is also the leading candidate for Mr. Football in 2001.

It will be the state's leading rusher against the state's number one rushing defense on Friday night.

Coch Saylor told the team after the game on Friday night that Lawrence County had absolutely no respect for them after last year's game.

"They tell every body in the mountains you guys are no good," Saylor said.

Game time on Friday night is 7:30 at the ROCK.

If the Rockets were to beat Lawrence County they would host the winner of Bell County and Ashland next Friday night.

Also on Friday night, Whitley County takes on Greenup County and Cawood plays at Sheldon Clark.

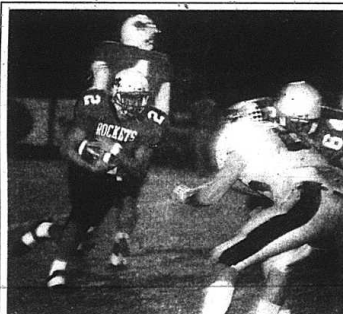
Sheldon Clark has the best record in the other region with a 9-1 season.

Their only loss of the season was to Beechwood, a Class A team that was the state champions several times.

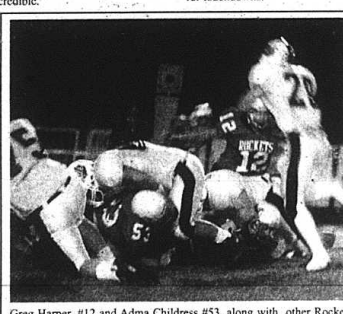
If both Sheldon Clark and Rockcastle win the first two weeks of the play-offs they would meet in the third week of the play-offs. That game would be played at Sheldon Clark.

If Rockcastle wins and Whitley County beats Greenup and Sheldon Clark, the regional championship game would be played at the ROCK.

Bonfire/Pep Rally
Celebrate 10 and 0 - Go Rockets
Thurs., Nov. 2nd • 6:30 - 8:00
High School Parking Lot



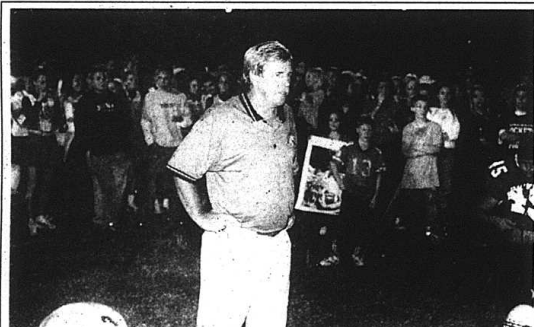
Senior Derrick Russell #2 finds running room behind Sophomore Michael Brummett #64 in the Rockets 25-0 win over Bell County on Friday night. The Rockets finished the regular season with a perfect 10-0 record.



Greg Harper, #12 and Adma Childress #53, along with other Rocket defenders put the clamps on the Bell County offense on Friday night. The Rockets won 25-0 to finish off a perfect 10-0 regular season. The Rockets host Lawrence County on Friday night a team that defeated the ROCK 48-14 in the regional finals a year ago. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



In games against stronger opponents the Rockets have used seniors Sean Smith and Travis Ingram in the backfield. On Friday night, the two played several plays on offense in the Rockets 25-0 thrashing of Bell County.



Rockcastle County head football coach Tom Larkey spoke to his team and a very large crowd of supporters after the Rockets won their 10th straight game of the season on Friday night. It was the first time in RCHS history that a varsity team has gone undefeated in regular season. The win was a 25-0 victory over Bell County, a team Larkey had never beaten as RCHS coach. The Rockets will host Lawrence County on Friday night in the first round of the play-offs. Game time is 7:30 p.m.



William Blair, Dackery Larkey and Greg Harper block for Derrick Bussell on his 42 yard interception return against Bell County. The return was good for a touchdown and gave the Rockets a 20-0 lead over the Bobcats.

Regional Playoff - Game #1

"On the Road to Louisville"

Lawrence County Bulldogs

vs.

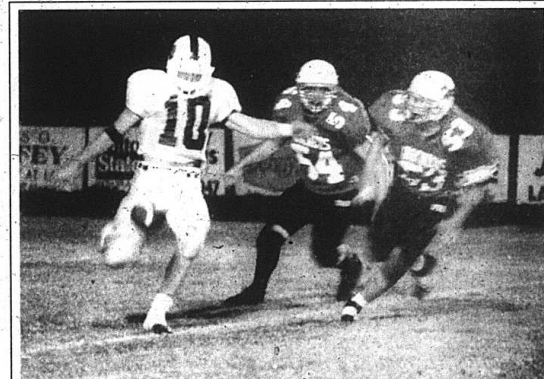
Rockcastle County Rockets

Friday, November 3, 2000

7:30 p.m. • Rocket Stadium

All Tickets \$5

Season passes and All Sports passes are not accepted. Reserved seating is honored, but must be accompanied with a general admission ticket (\$5.00), KHSAA Coaches cards, Lifetime Membership cards, Officials cards honored for free admission for the holder ONLY!



The Rockets defense held Bell County to just 82 yards on Friday night. They also rushed the Bell County punter on several occasions, including in the top photo when Sean Smith and Adam Childress put the heat on. The Rockets host Lawrence County in the first round of the play-offs on Friday night.