

Rockets beat Clay 65-60

For only the second time since a Rockcastle County boys' basketball team first stepped on the floor in the fall of 1972, has a team defeated the Clay County Tigers.

That second win came Friday night at Clay County when the Rockets came away with a 65-60 win in overtime.

By all accounts it was a big upset over Clay County, a team that had beaten the Rockets by almost 40 points earlier in the season.

It was the second straight year a Rocket team had gone into Manchester and pulled off the upset.

Friday night the Rockets used a full court press and a 2-3 zone defense to try to shut down Clay County's inside game, which had crippled them in the earlier match.

It obviously worked.

But as is the case for most teams, who go in Manchester, the game was extremely physical and not without controversy.

With 18 seconds to go in the game, the Rockets found themselves ahead one point and with the ball, after they forced a Clay County turnover on the press.

Clay County pressure prevented Aaron Cash from finding an open man on the inbound play, but he and the Rocket coaching staff began trying to call time-out as the referee counted to three.

Inside of giving the Rockets the time-out the referee stopped his count at four and gave the ball to Clay County.

Cash setup a play and scored with about ten seconds to go in the game to put them up by a point.

Rockcastle rebounded the ball to Aaron Cash who found Anderton on the wing. Anderton hit a three pointer with 6.2 seconds to go in the game and the Rockets had a two point lead. But the referees put 7 seconds on the clock and as the horn sounded at Clay County player hit a two point basket and the game went into overtime.

Rockcastle took the lead in overtime and never looked back.

"I'm proud of the way our kids played Friday night," head coach Chayton Cash said.

"We played extremely hard and didn't quit like we did against them at home," he said. "Even when we got behind we didn't panic - it was a good win for us," he said.

Rockcastle hit 23 of 32 free throw attempts and had 17 rebounds as a team.

Senior Jeremy Neesley had an excellent offensive game leading the Rockets with 26 points. Neesley hit 13 of 17 free throw attempts. He was twice fouled from the field and three for eleven from three point range. Neesley had four rebounds.

Anderton had 16 points, hitting five of eleven attempts from three point and he was one for two from the foul line. He had four rebounds and three steals.

Center Josh Rowland had seven points. He was fouled four from the foul line and he pulled down two rebounds and he had three steals.

Cash had six points, nine assists and three steals.

Andrew Hammond, who got in early foul trouble and eventually got out, had four points, two rebounds and two steals.

Thomas Coffey, who played an extremely good defensive game had four points and a team high five rebounds. He was perfect from the field

and the free throw line. Stephen Boring had two points on two for two shooting from the foul line.

Only seven Rockets saw action on Friday night.

This Rocket team has now won seven games, which is more than some observers thought they would.

Friday night's win also keeps the Rockets in the hunt for a number one seed in the district tournament, which will be held in Jackson County, beginning February 26.

The Rockets who have already beaten Jackson County will play the Generals again on February 2, in McKee.

The Rockets travelled to Southwestern on Tuesday night, only to come away with a disappointing 63-55 loss. The Rockets are now 7-4 on the season.

The Rocket big men, Andrew Hammond and Josh Rowland kept the Rockets in the game the first quarter, as Rowland put up six of the eleven points in the first quarter. Aaron Cash hit a three for good measure.

Southwestern had the hot hand, however, hitting three 3's to go up 13-11 at the end of the first.

Rockcastle went into the locker room with the one point, 25-24 advantage at halftime, but several turnovers in the third saw the Rockets lead slip away at the end of the third. The Warriors retook the lead 41-39.

Rowland and Hammond again stepped up in the third, contributing 6 and 5 respectively, with Aaron Anderton adding a three.

The highlight of the game for the Rockets came in the third when senior Jeremy Neesley executed the perfect alley-oop pass to Hammond for the dunk and the play of the game.

Southwestern was too much from behind the arch however, hitting ten 3's on the night, and putting the Rockets away in the final minutes, outscoring the Rockets 12-6 for the 61-55 win.

ROCKETSLINESCORES

Rockcastle 12 12 12 17 12 65
Clay Co. 8 15 16 14 7 60
Jeremy Neesley 26, Aaron Anderton 16, Josh Rowland 7, Aaron Cash 6, Andrew Hammond 4, Thomas Coffey 4, Stephen Boring 2.

Rockcastle 11 14 14 16 55
S.W. Pulaski 13 11 17 22 63
Josh Rowland 16, Aaron Cash 12, Andrew Hammond 11, Jeremy Neesley 8, Aaron Anderton 8.

Ten Star All-Star Ball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. Boys, ages 8-19 and Girls, ages 10-19, can apply.

Players are selected by Invitation Only. Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill, Bobby Hurley, Antawn Jamison, Christian Lactner, Tom Gugliotta and Trajan Langdon. Camp location for Kentucky is Midway.

College Basketball Scholarships are possible for players named to The All-American Team. For an evaluation form call (704)568-6801 anytime.



Thomas Coffey and Aaron Anderton apply the pressure Friday night in the Rockets full court press, which helped them to defeat Clay County by five points in overtime. It was only the second time that a RCHS boys' varsity team has defeated Clay County. Anderton had 16 and Coffey added 4.



Senior Josh Rowland returned from an ankle injury Friday night to help lead the Rockets to a 65-60 win in overtime.



Ashley Mink puts the defense on a Clay County player Friday night. The Lady Rockets defeated Madison Central on Monday night.

Beat Madison Central 57-50

Lady Rockets lose return match with Clay County 58-46

After beating the Clay County Tigers by four in their first match-up of the season, the Rockets lost to the Tigers at Clay County last Friday night, 58-46.

It was a lackluster performance for the Rockets as they hit only five field goals the first half and 15 for the game.

The first goal of the ball game was made by senior Rachelie Hammond and that was the only lead the Rockets would enjoy in the game. Following Hammond's bucket, the Tigers scored 10 straight points before the Rockets could get their offense going and come back to tie the score at 12 all at the end of the first period.

However, the second quarter belonged to the Tigers who scored 12 points while the Rockets managed only five free throws on offense and went to the dressing room at halftime down 24-17.

The margin stayed the same during the third period, although the Rockets turned up their offense, getting six baskets and going 5 for 6 from the free throw line for the 34-24 third quarter score.

In the fourth quarter, the Tigers got only two baskets but put in 13 free throws while the Rockets could only manage 8 points for the final 57-46.

Hammond led her team in scoring with 17. Amber Falin got 10. Jessie Rickles 6. Ashley Mink, who came off the bench to turn in a solid rebounding game for the Rockets, scored 5 and Amber Denney, Ashley Lawson, Jessie Hayes and Johnna Abney each scored 2 points.

Monday night, the Lady Indians from Madison Central visited and the Rockets got to up their season record to 10-5 with their 57-50 win.

The game was close through the first half with senior Amber Falin keeping her team in the action with five baskets and two free throws to give the Rockets a 31-27 edge at the

half. In the third quarter, the Rockets went up 44-32 for their longest lead of the game but the Indians put on a 16-8 run to pull within four late in the fourth at 58-48. However, three free throws by Mink and Falin and a basket by Hammond secured the win for the Rockets.

Hammond again led the scoring for the Rockets with 15. Falin was close behind with 14. Rickles had 8, Mink scored 7, Denney 6, Amy Barnett 4 and Jessie Hayes 3.

Jayvees Win
In the Jayvee game against Madison Central, the Rockets took an early lead and never relinquished it, winning 43-20.

Jessie Hayes and Bryanna Bissell tied for scoring honors in the game with 10 each. Tara Rowe got 5, Amy Barnett and Jessica Carpenter 4 each, Johnna Abney and Krystal Parsons 3 each and Allison Anderton and Stephanie Price, 2 apiece.

Freshmen Split Two Games

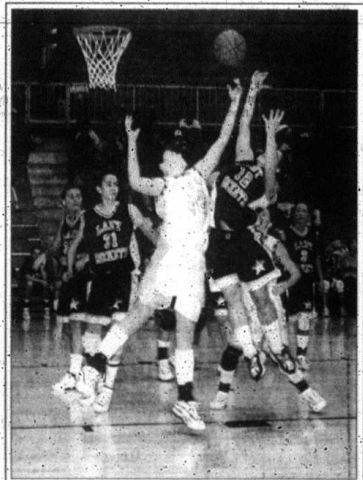
The Rocket freshmen traveled to South Laurel Saturday and came away on the short end of the score 32-28, despite a 23 point effort by 8th grader Johnna Abney.

The Rockets trailed 13-7 at the end of the first quarter and 18-16 at the half. They went ahead 20-18 on a goal and two free throws from Abney early in the third period but that was the only offense the Rockets could muster in the quarter and Laurel was ahead 25-20 at the third quarter stop.

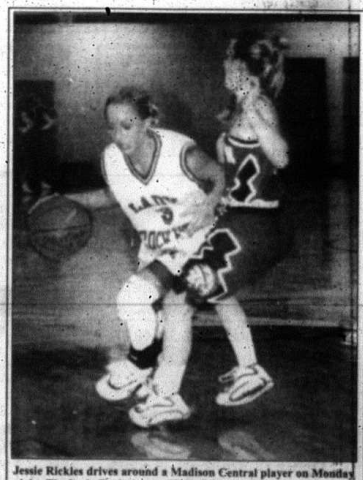
Besides Abney's 23, Anderton got 4 points and Katie Parsons 1.

Tuesday night, the freshmen played host to Lincoln County and easily defeated the Panthers 34-25.

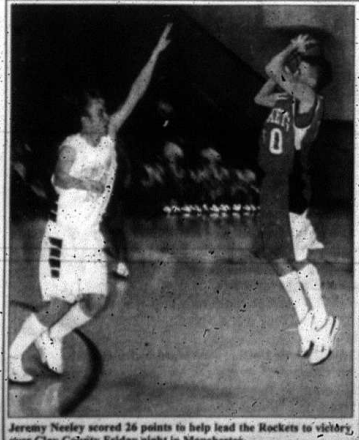
The scoring was a little more balanced for the Rockets in this game with Abney leading the way with 11 points. Anderton got 8, Stephanie Price 5, Anna Guilford 4 and Katie Parsons, Krystal Parsons and Tara Rowe, 2 each.



Amber Falin fights for a rebound in the Lady Rockets loss to Clay County on Friday night.



Jessie Rickles drives around a Madison Central player on Monday night. The Lady Rockets won 57-50. Rickles had nine points.



Jeremy Neesley scored 26 points to help lead the Rockets to victory over Clay County Friday night in Manchester.

Kentucky's first Elk hunt

U.S. President Zachary Taylor ate two many cherries and milk on a clearing July day and died nine days later. New Mexico and California were the newest states in the Union. Many Irish were moving to the United States as a result of the potato famine and the gold fields in California pulled many across the prairies and mountains to chase their dreams of wealth.

The year was 1850, the last time elk were in Kentucky. But, because of the efforts of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the first year in the new millennium will once again bring elk hunting back to the Bluegrass State.

The dates for these historic quota hunts will be Oct. 6-12, 2001 for bull elk and Dec. 1-7, 2001, for cow elk. There will be six bull elk and six cow elk permits issued for these limited hunts. The hunts will take place on the Addington Enterprises Wildlife

Management Area near Hazard. Interested hunters may apply for Kentucky's first elk hunt until May 31, 2001 wherever hunting and fishing licenses are sold. Hunters may also apply on the Internet at www.kdfwr.state.ky.us. A person must provide either their social security number or driver's license number to apply. Hunters may also apply once for a non-refundable fee of \$10. Applicants must hold a 2001 Kentucky hunting license at the time of the drawing to be eligible. Non-residents may also apply.

Upon request, those who apply will receive a commemorative elk patch signifying participation in the first elk hunt. To request your patch, submit a self-addressed stamped envelope to KDFWR, #1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, KY 40601. Please include a photocopy of your elk application permit or your driver's license number or your social security number, with your request.