

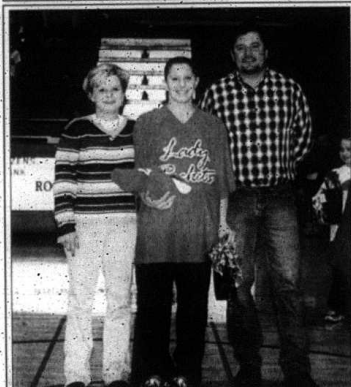
Seniors honored



Rockcastle County High School honored senior Lady Rockets, managers, and dance team members, along with their parents during the Lady Rockets' last home game Friday night. Above, Jessie Rickles is shown with her parents, Jim and Candi Rickles.



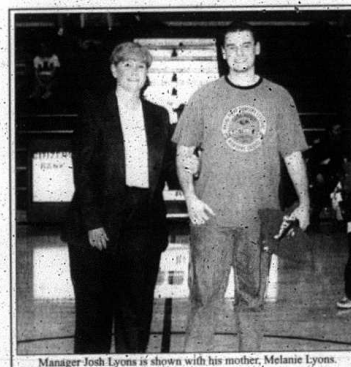
Ashley Lawson and her parents, Terri and Marlene Lawson.



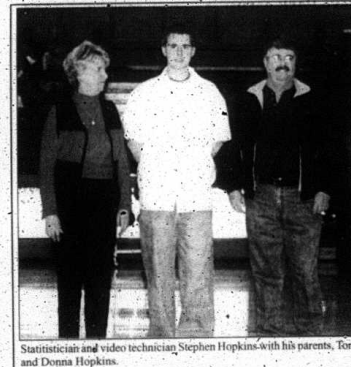
Amber Falin with her parents, Cheryl Falin and Charlie Falin.



Rachelle Hammond with her parents, Larry and Rebekah Hammond.



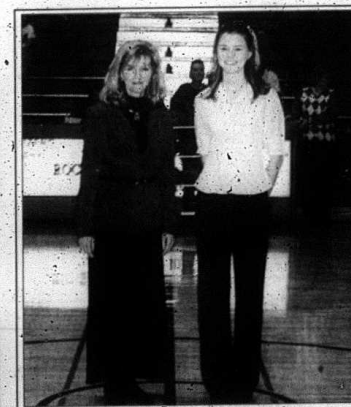
Manager Josh Lyons is shown with his mother, Melanie Lyons.



Statistician and video technician Stephen Hopkins with his parents, Tony and Donna Hopkins.



Foreign exchange student from Germany, Martina Maurer, was escorted by Jason Londa.



Katy Powell and her mother, Loretta Powell.

Senior Photos by:
Perlina Anderkin



Lindsay Parvom is shown with her parents, John and Jeannine Parvom.

"Lady Rockets"

(Cont. from A8)

However, the fourth quarter belonged to the Tigers. Except for a basket by Falin at the 5:36 mark, the Rockets went scoreless until a goal by Hammond, with 3:10 left in the game, which tied the score at 44 all. With 1:41 left on the clock, the Tigers went into a stall and it was at the 44 second mark when the Rockets came with the pressure. Jessie Rickles forced a mistake by the Tiger point guard, which the referees missed and the Tigers scored with 20 seconds left. Following a time out by the Rockets, the Tigers committed their fifth foul of the half at the 16 second mark. The Rockets then turned the ball over and Rickles immediately fouled. The Tiger player missed the front end of one and one and the Rockets rebounded. Rickles came down the floor, put up the three and the Tiger defender was called for the foul -- on the floor. With 2:7 seconds left on the clock, Clay stole the ball on the inbound pass. Falin fouled immediately but the Tiger made both free throws for the final 48-44.

Falin led the scoring for the Rockets with 13 points. Hammond got 11. Denney 7, Rickles 5, Abney 4, Mink 3 and Lawson 1.

The Rockets end their season with a 21-7 record.

"Rockets"

(Cont. from A8)

Jackson County upped their record to 19-10.

The game was close throughout, with Jackson County having a two point lead at the end of the first period.

The score was tied at 31 at half-time and Rockcastle had a one point lead at the end of the third quarter.

The game was tied at 55, with six minutes to go in the game, but Jackson County began to pull away, scoring the majority of their points in the fourth period from the foul line.

All total, Jackson County shot 28 free throws compared to Rockcastle's three. The last 18 points the Generals scored were from the foul line.

Sophomore Jason Reynolds came off the bench to lead the scoring with 16.

Jeremy Neeley had 15, all in the first half, and Andrew Hammond added 10. Aaron Cash had 8, Josh Rowland, 6, Aaron Anderkin, 2 and Chris Settles, 2.

Jackson County will face Clay County in the district final on Thursday night.

The Jackson County girls' team, which is ranked number one in the state will face Clay County in the district final on Friday night.

"Racing"

(Cont. from A8)

of the restraint system was severely compromised by the webbing separation."

The left side of Earnhardt's belt broke, allowing his chest and chin to slam violently into the steering wheel.

NASCAR officials refused to offer any further information on why they thought the seat belt broke.

There have been several reports by unnamed sources that said the manner in which the seat belt was installed led to its failure. Most drivers make changes to their harnesses for comfort. Earnhardt's preferred seat position was lower and in more of a reclining position than most other drivers, who sit higher and upright.

"The Simpson Company was not responsible in any way, shape or form for this accident," said Bill Simpson, owner of Simpson Safety Products. "It's a tragedy of the first magnitude, but our belt was not at fault."

While the real culprit may never be known, several more teams including the No. 9 Dodge team driven by Bill Elliott are taking another look at the head and neck restraints system after the death of Dale Earnhardt.

"We're working on it (HANS) and trying to get it incorporated into our system, but you've got to change a lot of stuff to accommodate it," Elliott said. "You have to totally reconfigure the seat. You just can't put it on and wear it. It isn't that simple. I tested with it at Talladega just about all day, and once you get used to it, it isn't all that bad. Some people say it's uncomfortable, but they're just using that as an excuse. We just haven't had time to get it incorporated into the car. It'll take several weeks to get it right. It's not like a helmet. You can't just throw it on and jump in the car."

"I don't know if it's what we need now or not. I have more questions than answers right now. It sure ain't going to be the same out there without Dale Earnhardt. It's going to be hard to go to the track, and if it's going to be hard to accept that Earnhardt isn't there. We all miss Adam Petty, Kenny Irwin and Tony Roper. Too. We've got to take everything that's happened, analyze it and hope that it can help us."

"Earnhardt was the highest profile guy in the sport, but we should look at his death no differently just because he was so well known. I don't know how we can look at this and not make some changes. Sometimes things got to be done, but I don't have the answer. It was just a bad deal. What happened to the 3 at Daytona overshadowed everything else that happened down there. All it takes is that one time, that one hit."

We need all the help we can get right now with safety issues, and I think the HANS is definitely something we need to look at."

Weekend Racing: Both the Busch and Winston Cup Series will be racing at Las Vegas Motor Speedway. The Craftsman Truck Series goes to Homestead, FL.

Saturday, March 3, Busch Series: Sam's Town 300, event 3 of 13 events. Distance: 200 laps/300 miles. Starting time: 3 pm (EST). TV: Fox Sports Channel. Defending Champion: Jeff Burton, Ford.

Sunday, March 4, Craftsman Truck Series: Florida Dodge Dealers 400, event 2 of 24 Distance: 107 laps/240.5 miles. Starting time: 1 pm (EST). TV: ESPN. Defending champion: Andy Houston. Chevrolet Winston Cup: UAW-DaimlerChrysler 400, event 3 of 36 events Distance: 267 laps/400 miles. Starting time: 2:30 pm (EST). TV: Fox. Defending champion: Jeff Burton, Ford. Las Vegas Motor Speedway Truck Facts: Size: 1.5 miles; Degree of banking in corners: 12 degrees; Degree of banking on straights: Front: 9 degrees, Back 3 degrees; Length of frontstretch: 2,275 feet; Length of backstretch: 1,572 feet.

Racing Trivia Question: How many career Winston Cup victories did Dale Earnhardt have?

Answer: To Last Week's Question: NASCAR was formed in December 1947.

Gerald Hodges/the Racing Reporter is a syndicated NASCAR columnist. If you have a racing question that you would like answered send it to The Racing Reporter, P.O. Box 160711, Mobile, AL, 36616, or e-mail it to: 110335.405@compuserve.com

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