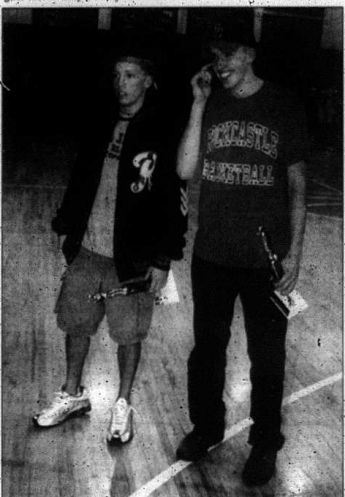


All-Tourney Teams



Rachelle Hammond, left, and Amber Faltin were named to the 49th District All-Tourney Team during District Tournament action last week. The girls lost to Clay County in first round action.



Jeremy Neeley, left, and Jason Reynolds were named to the 49th District All-Tourney Team. The Rockets lost to Jackson County in first round action of the district tournament.

RCHS Girls finish second

(Cont. from A8)

heavily recruited by many schools, including several Division I universities. The University of Louisville has offered her full tuition, plus room and board, to attend their school and compete as a member of the track team. She is also being recruited by Western Kentucky University, a school that will likely offer her the same. Other schools recruiting Cheyenne include the Air Force Academy, Syracuse University, Miami of Ohio, Clemson, the University of Cincinnati, Morehead State University, Cumberland College, Lindsey Wilson, and Murray State University.

Senior Tara Abney medaled in the 55-meter hurdles with a stellar performance. She placed last way to a third place finish in the state in the event, improving upon last season's fourth place finish. Tara showed more improvement than her competition this season, and finished with an exceptional time of 9:53 seconds in the event. Tara is being recruited by Morehead State University, Cumberland College, Lindsey Wilson, Berea College, and Murray State University.

Freshman Sheena Swinney finished as state runner-up in the 55-meter dash with a spectacular performance and a new RCHS record time of 7.73. She was eclipsed only by Paducah's Akjoe. Sheena won the 55 and 200-meter state titles in the middle school state championships last season. She is the current 100-meter dash record-holder at RCHS and the defending regional champion in the event.

Senior Mindy Bullock performed exceptionally well in the high jump. She leaped an incredible 4'10" and placed fourth overall, narrowly missing the state title by only two inches. Mindy had jumped 5'0" at the first two indoor meets of the season. Morehead State is currently recruiting Mindy for their track and field team.

Sophomore Clarissa Hubbard, coming off last year's state championship performance, followed with a solid state runner-up effort. Clarissa threw an amazing 319'75" for her second straight top two finish. Clarissa will enter the outdoor season as one of the top-ranked throwers in the state.

The 800-meter relay team of Tara Abney, Casey Taylor, Heather Hammond, and Sheena Swinney set a new RCHS indoor record and finished as state runner-up. The girls ran an awesome race and posted an amazing time of 1:57.6, defeating a

team of four seniors from Bullitt East who placed third.

The 1600-meter relay team of Sheena Swinney, Tara Abney, Heather Hammond, and Cheyenne Cammack placed fourth with a great race and a new RCHS indoor record time of 4:31.8.

The RCHS boys' team had a great competition despite the lack of competitors. Competing with only seven

boys, the team faced an incredible challenge, but were eager to meet their task head on.

Freshman Steven Shackelford performed very well in the high jump competition placing eighth overall trying a personal best of 5'0".

Seven earned a ribbon for his incredible jump. He also finished 23rd in the long jump competition with a solid performance.

Senior Jeremiah Myers placed 25th in the 55-meter dash with a stellar performance and a great time of 7:59. Jeremiah competed in his first indoor state championship meet since three years ago. In the 200-meter dash, he finished a spectacular race with a personal best indoor time of 58.3. He finished in 13th place overall.

Eighth grader Matthew Whitaker ran an awesome 800-meter race for RCHS. He finished 24th overall with an exceptional time of 2:35.6 and was the top-ranked eighth grader in the event.

Team captain Brandon Cole had the difficult task of competing in the 1500-meter run. Brandon was in the challenge and finished in 14th place overall with an excellent time of 5:04.1. He was also the top-ranked eighth grader in the event.

Andrew Nelson ran extremely well in the grueling 3000-meter run and finished 15th with an unbelievable time of 11:17. Andrew finished as the top freshman in the event.

In the shot put competition, newcomer Doug French performed very well in his first ever competitive meet. He threw an amazing 31'25" and finished 19th to become the top twenty competitor.

The 3200-meter relay team of Andrew Nelson, Matthew Whitaker, Brandon Cole, and Bill Burdett ran exceptionally well. The team combined for a 16th place finish with a spectacular time of 10:20. The group was also the youngest team to compete in the event.

The 1600-meter relay team of Matthew Whitaker, Brandon Cole, Stephen Hopkins, and Jeremiah Myers ran a hard-fought race and placed 20th overall with a tremendous time of 4:18.

Both girls' and boys' teams had tremendous competitions. The outdoor season should prove to be a very ex-

citing time for the RCHS track and field teams. The girls' team will be seeking their second straight regional championship and their fourth top two finish in a row (they finished as regional runner-up two straight seasons). The boys' team will be seeking their first ever regional track title.

How to certify a record fish

All of the hard work, time and expense paid off in the end. You are now holding the biggest fish of your life, a fish that weighs more on your hand scales than the current state record for the species. What do you do now?

The report card on a 13 pound, 15 ounce largemouth bass caught at Laurel River Lake demonstrates the

importance of following the proper procedures for certifying state record fish. The fish was five ounces heavier than the current state record, but was released without verification from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) fisheries biologist and, therefore, cannot be recognized as the new state record largemouth bass.

The angler did an honorable thing by releasing the fish. He also was close to state record certification because he weighed the fish on certified scales with witnesses. But, he was one step short.

"Unless a trained fisheries biologist certifies it, it cannot be a state record," said Ted Crowell, assistant director of fisheries for the KDFWR. "This guarantees authenticity."

The procedures for certification are simple. The fish must be caught in Kentucky waters by rod and reel or pole and line. Fish taken on commercial gear, trotlines or by snagging and snaring are not eligible. Fish taken by bowfishers are also not eligible.

The fish must be weighed on a state certified for trade and three people must witness this weighing. The signatures of the three witnesses must be recorded on the state record application on a separate sheet attached to the application. The scale's print out is required if the scales are so equipped.

The most important step in the

process is to have the fish verified by a state fisheries biologist. They verify the species of the fish and insure there is no tampering to increase the weight of the fish. The biologist will provide an official state record fish application to the angler with their signature of verification at the bottom.

"There's got to be a way of guaranteeing it is the right species," Crowell said. "There is no good way to make positive identification except verification by a biologist. You certainly can't take somebody's word for it."

This may seem a rigid process, but Kentucky state record fish are guaranteed to be authentic. "We've had potential state record and trophy fish misidentified in the past," Crowell explained. "In some cases, the fish was not heavy enough for a state record or long enough for a trophy fish."

Some aversion to this verification process exists because anglers mistakenly feel the fish must die in order for it to be verified. Crowell used the example of the state record 104 pound blue catfish, which is also the 50 pound line class world record, as a fish that was properly verified and released.

The huge catfish, caught in the Ohio River on August 28, 1999, was kept alive until Northwestern Fisheries District Biologist David Bell could verify the catch. The fish was then released back into the Ohio River in good condition.

The phone numbers of each district fisheries biologist are listed on page 23 of the Kentucky Sports Fishing and Boating Guide available at the KDFWR. The fish was released back into the Ohio River in good condition.



The 8-and-9-year-old Jr. Pro All-Star team competed at Richmond Model on February 23-25 finishing fourth with a record of 4 and 2. On March 2-4 they competed at the Rockcastle County Jr. Pro Invitational. They finished second with a record of 5 and 2. On March 17th, they will be competing in the state Jr. Pro Tournament in Middlesboro. Members of the team are pictured above, front row from left: Jared Harding, Bryan Clontz, Cody Mize, Jamie Todd, and Dustin Rader. Back row from left: coach Mike Birtwell, Dustin Bullock, Ashley Robinson, Allen Burdette, Dustin Barnett, and coach Jeff Bullock.

State Champs

(Cont. from A8)

in 2:55.74.

In the shot put competition, eighth grader Kelli Doan led the way for RCMS. She threw an impressive 20'2" on her way to an 11th place finish, her best ever. Tressie Robinson, throwing for the first time in competition, did an outstanding job and finished in 23rd place with an effort of 17'.

The boys' team also had an excellent competition, despite having only four team members. "The group sought to capitalize on their best events and demonstrate improvement from earlier in the indoor season."

Eighth grader Matthew Whitaker had a great competition and scored for the boys in the 400-meter dash. Matthew sprinted his way to an

eight place finish with a personal record time of 1:02.84. He also earned an eighth place ribbon for his outstanding effort. This was a very impressive accomplishment due to the fact that there were seventy-six runners present. Eighth grader teammate Brandon Cole also ran an exceptional race and finished 11th overall in 1:04.01. Bill Burdett, also an eighth grader, ran very well and finished 30th with a time of 1:07.9.

In the 800-meter run, Matthew once again led the charge for RCMS. He ran an awesome race and placed 17th out of eighty-five competitors with an exceptional time of 2:33.17. Bill ran his best race ever and finished 36th with a personal best time of 2:39.89.

Seventh grade newcomer Derrick Baker was the only RCMS competitor in the 55 and 200-meter dashes. Derrick, competing in his first ever meet, ran an exceptional race and finished 43rd overall in 8:58 seconds. There were seventy competitors in the event. In the 200-meter dash, Derrick also ran superb and placed 48th out of seventy-seven athletes. He finished with an awesome time of 3:13.38.

The Racing Reporter

Jeff Gordon is back in Victory Lane

By Gerald Hodges

The Racing Reporter

After 12 winless races, Jeff Gordon and his No. 24 Dupont Chevrolet team ended the drought by winning the UAW-GM DaimlerChrysler 400 at Las Vegas.

The race was the winner of the Winston Cup No. 17 event, which meant Gordon took home an additional \$1-million.

"We're back," Gordon said. "Man what a day. We never gave up and the team never got frustrated."

Gordon passed pole-sitter Dale Jarrett, who finished second, on lap 241 of the 267 lap event and held on for his 53rd career Winston Cup victory and first at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Sterling Marmon was third; Johnny Benson was fourth and Todd Bodine rounded out the top five.

Jarrett took the early lead in Sunday's race, but within nine laps several of the top contenders fell out. Last year's race winner, Jeff Burton, spun out on Lap 2 and hit the outer wall. Jeremy Mayfield tagged teammate Rusty Wallace and neither were able to finish the race.

Finishing order: 1. Jeff Gordon, 2. Dale Jarrett, 3. Sterling Marmon, 4. Johnny Benson, 5. Todd Bodine, 6. Mark Martin, 7. Steve Park, 8. Kevin Harvick, 9. Ron Hornaday, 10. Jimmy Spencer, 11. Kurt Busch, 12. Tony Stewart, 13. Michael Waltrip, 14. Bill Elliott, 15. Jerry Nadeau, 16. Robert Pressley, 17. Matt Kenseth, 18. Mike Skinner, 19. Ricky Rudd, 20. Elliott Sadler, 21. Ward Burton, 22. Terry Labonte, 23. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 24. Casey Atwood, 25. Ken Schrader, 26. Dave Blaney, 27. Stacy Compton, 28. Jason Leffler, 29. Bobby Labonte, 30. Bobby Hamilton, 31. Kenny Wallace, 32. Mike Wallace, 33. Ryan Newman, 34. Robby Gordon, 35. Joe Nemechek, 36. Buckshot Jones, 37. Jeff Andretti, 38. Brett Bodine, 39. Jeff Burton, 40. Hue Stricklin, 41. Ricky Craven, 42. Jeremy Mayfield, 43. Rusty Wallace.

Marlin leads points

The top-10 Winston Cup points

standings after 3 of 36 events: 1. Marlin 468, 2. J. Gordon 433, 3. Walton 415, 4. Jarrett 411, 5. Park 401, 6. Benson 394, 7. Elliott 388, 8. Pressley 363, 9. Stewart 347, 10. Sadler 337.

Todd Bodine gets second straight Busch win

Veteran Todd Bodine battled rookie Greg Biffle for the lead in the 15 laps remaining and won Sunday's Sam's Town 300 at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

With Bodine leading, Larry Foyt brushed the fourth turn wall with eight laps left to bring out the race's final caution flag. The race was red-flagged with seven laps remaining to ensure a green-flag finish.

When racing resumed, there were four laps remaining and Biffle, who was in second-place position to pass Bodine in the first and second turns. The cars made brief contact before Bodine was able to pull away and take the checkered flag by 1.085 seconds ahead of Biffle.

Finishing order: 1. Todd Bodine, 2. Greg Biffle, 3. Jason Keller, 4. Tony Raines, 5. Jeff Green, 6. Jeff Burton, 7. Joe Nemechek, 8. Elton Sawyer, 9. Kelly McLaughlin, 10. Jay Sauter, 11. Scott Wimmer, 12. Kevin Harvick, 13. Tim Sauter, 14. Jimmie Johnson, 15. Rich Bieker, 16. Chad Little, 17. Jeff Furby, 18. Mike Dillon, 19. Kevin Grubb, 20. Jamie McMurray, 21. Kevin LePage, 22. Hank Parker Jr., 23. Christian Elder, 24. Kenny Wallace, 25. Chad Chaffin, 26. Kelly Denson, 27. P.J. Mize, 28. Tim Fedewa, 29. Shane Hall, 30. Ashton Lewis Jr., 31. Larry Foyt, 32. Mark Green, 33. Brian Tyler, 34. Matt Kenseth, 35. Brad Baker, 36. Marty Houston, 37. Bobby Hamilton, 38. Randy LaJoie, 39. Michael Waltrip, 40. David Green, 41. Sammy Sanders, 42. Scott Gaylord, 43. Blaise Alexander.

Harvick continues as points leader

The top-10 Busch Series points leaders after 3 of 33 events: 1. Harvick 487, 2. J. Green 467, 3. Biffle 447, 4. Kelly 445, 5. Bodine 419, 6. McLaughlin 409, 7. Johnson 405, 8. Kelly 393, 9. Bickle 379, 10. Little 371.

The top-five Busch Series points leaders: 1. Biffle 36, 2. T. Sauter 31,

3. McMurray 26, 4. Wimmer 25, 5. Foyt and M. Houston 24.

Ted Musgrave gets Florida Truck Win

The results of the Craftsman Truck Series Florida Dodge Dealers 400, run at Homestead, FL, Sunday, March 4: 1. Ted Musgrave, 2. Travis Kvapil, 3. Jack Sprague, 4. Scott Riggs, 5. Ricky Hendrick, 6. Tony Toloma, 7. Carlos Contreras, 8. Rick Crawford, 9. Joe Ruttman, 10. Terry Cook, 11. Coy Gibbs, 12. Barry Cook, 13. Lance Norick, 14. Nathan Hasel, 15. Lance Speer, 16. Nathan Bumble, 17. Dennis Scott, 18. Ronnie Hornaday, 19. Willy T. Ribbs, 20. Chuck Hoesfeld, 21. Bobby Dotter, 22. Michael Dokken, 23. Derrick Cope, 24. Billy Bipeley, 25. Jason Small, 26. Matt Crafton, 27. Rob Morgan, 28. Bryon Reffner, 29. Tom Powers, 30. Rick Carelli, 31. Lori Richardson, 32. Mark Petty, 33. Michael Ritch, 34. Ricky Sanders, 35. David Donahue, 36. Larry Gossman.

Riggs leads Truck Series

The top-10 Craftsman Truck Series points leaders after 2 of 24 events: 1. Riggs 339, 2. Hemdick 330, 3. Ruttman 328, 4. Toloma 310, 5. Sprague 302, 6. Cook 289, 7. Musgrave 287, 8. Crawford 287, 9. Norick 294, 10. Gibbs 276.

The top-five rookies: Hendrick 16, 37, 2. Kvapil 26, 3. Ribbs 20, 4. Hasel 15, 5. Ribbs 14.

Nacar tires are big business

Any type of racing is expensive, but to compete in NASCAR's top two series, the Busch and Winston Cup costs are astronomical. A good rule of thumb is, the more money you have, the faster you are able to go. In other words, money buys speed.

Many large sponsors are shelling out in excess of \$10 million to become a primary sponsor on a major Winston Cup racing team. We generally don't hear much about the cost of tires, but for long races, they can cost teams a bundle.

According to figures released by Goodyear, the official (and only) tire of NASCAR, they brought 3,690 Goodyear racing tires to Las Vegas for Sunday's event. There were 2,440

(Cont. to A10)

Gun & Knife Show

Somerset Comm. Center

March 10 & 11

Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Sun. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Buy, Sell & Trade

Next show will be February 10th & 11th

For more info, contact Kenny Woods at 436-0570 or 847-4047

To Members and Friends:

Third Annual Wild Turkey Super Fund/Membership Banquet

"Working for the Wild Turkey and Hunting Heritage"

Wildcat Mountain Longboards Chapter

of the

National Wild Turkey Federation

Banquet on March 9, 2001

Opening 6 p.m. Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Live and silent auction after dinner of Wildlife Prints.

Outdoor Gear and Guns

Rockcastle Co. Middle School

Single ticket - \$35 (includes membership)

Couples ticket (one membership and two dinners) \$45

Sponsor Ticket (membership, sponsor gift, bonus tickets, and meal for one) \$210

Jakes (includes membership and dinner) \$15

For information call Tony Mahaffy (606) 256-4805; Mike McGuire (606) 256-5184; Larry Hensley (606) 256-9481; Jerry Martin (606) 453-9906; Bill Cameron (606) 256-3640 or Juan Garzon (606) 758-8030