

Rockets are 4-0 on season, ranked fifth

The Rockcastle County Rockets are four and 0 on the season and ranked number five in the state.

The Rockets added Madison Central and Lincoln County to their list of victims last week.

They were rained out Monday and Tuesday of this week.

Speaking of the number five ranking: "I think the Louisville schools respect us because of what our kids were able to do against them earlier in their careers," head coach J.D. Bussell said.

"We also are returning 99 percent of our pitching from a year ago when we went to the final eight in the state and that doesn't hurt your ranking," he said.

"I don't mind being ranked so high in the state, actually I like it. I just hope our team plays like a top ten team," the first year coach said.

On Thursday night, the Rockets defeated Madison Central 8-3.

Christopher Parsons netted the Indians to three runs on three hits. He struck out six and walked four in five innings. Shea Taylor picked up the save by pitching the final two innings.

The Rockets had a total of six hits and six Rocket batters walked.

Rockcastle also made two errors. Three Rocket batters picked up all six hits, Derrick Bussell had three hits, which included a triple and double.

Parsons had two hits, both singles and Greg Harper picked up a double in the victory. Bussell stole two bases, Harper, one, Billy Hackworth, one, Brandon Bishop, one, Aaron Cash, one, Brandon McIntosh, one, and Marty Reagan, one.

On Friday the Rockets defeated Lincoln County 5-2 on a three hit pitching performance by Harper. Harper struck out six and walked



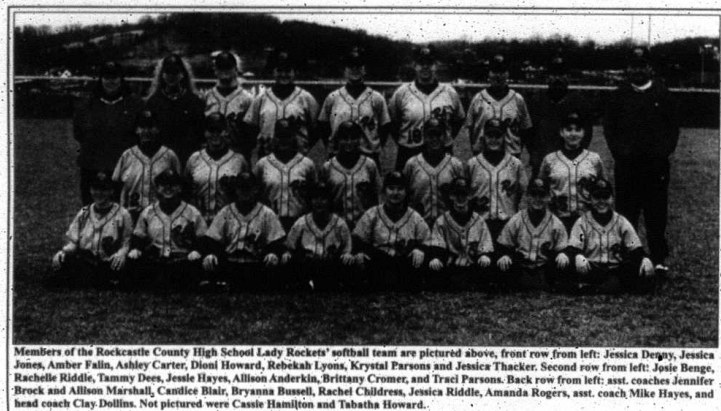
The Rockcastle County High School Rocket Baseball team is four and 0 on the season and ranked fifth in the state. Members of this year's team are front row from left: Chris Tolle, manager, Brandon Campbell, Brandon McIntosh, Marty Reagan, Devin Taylor, Cody Alexander, Billy Hackworth, Tim McIntosh, James Bussell and John Bray. Second row, from left: Shea Taylor, Aaron Cash, Derrick Bussell, Greg Harper, Christopher Parsons, Dackery Larky, Adam Hensley, Jeff Todd, Stephen Boring and Aaron Anderkin. Back row, from left: Head Coach J.D. Bussell, assist. coach Burt King, Tim McChirve, Devon Bussell, Brandon Bishop, manager Brian Kirby, statisticians, Chad Hensley and assist. coaches Adam Coleman and Chris Hendrickson.

six. He also hit four batters, but got his second win.

The Rockets picked up a total of seven hits. Bishop and Cash each picked up a double. Bussell had two singles and Cash, Hackworth, Harper and Brandon McIntosh all had singles.

Bussell and Shea Taylor had one stolen base and three Rockets were caught stealing.

The Rockets will host Estill County on Thursday night and travel to McCreary Central on Friday night.



Members of the Rockcastle County High School Lady Rockets' softball team are pictured above, front row from left: Jessica Deagy, Jessica Jones, Amber Falin, Ashley Carter, Dioni Howard, Rebekah Lyons, Krystal Parsons and Jessica Thacker. Second row from left: Josie Bengo, Brock and Allison Marshall, Candice Blair, Bryanna Bussell, Rachel Childress, Jessica Riddle, Amanda Rogers, asst. coach Mike Hayes, and head coach Clay Dollins. Not pictured were Cassie Hamilton and Tabatha Howard.

Lady Rockets lose to Berea and Jackson Co.

It was a tie ballgame through six innings last Thursday night but, in the seventh, the Berea Lady Pirates came through with three runs to get the win: 11-8.

In the bottom of the first, Jessie Hayes got on base for her team and later scored on a fielder's choice off the bat of Josie Bengo who was out at first. The Pirates came back in the top of the second to score six runs off two hits, two walks and three Rocket errors.

In the third, the Pirates added two more runs to go up 8-1. But, the Rockets countered in their half of the third with five runs. Amber Falin led off with a triple and later scored when Rachel Childress was safe at first on an error on the Pirate shortstop. Hayes drew a walk and she and

Childress both scored with aggressive base running aided by a Pirate error and a wild pitch. Cassie Hamilton drew a walk and Rachel Riddle singled to right; driving in Hamilton to bring the Rockets to within three at 8 to 5.

After a scoreless inning for the Pirates in the fourth, Ashley Carter led off with a walk for the Rockets in the bottom of the inning. Falin again tripled, driving in Carter and later scored on a passed ball. Rachel Childress then drew a walk and stole second and scored on a fielder's choice off the bat of Jessie Thacker, tying the score at 8 all.

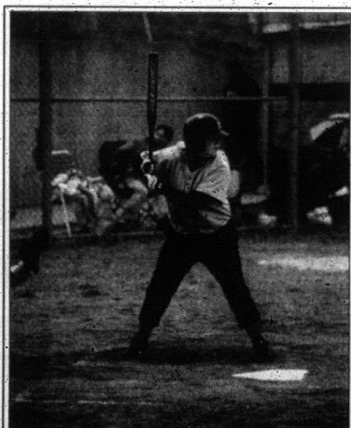
There was no scoring action for either team in the sixth but a combination of four walks, a single and three Rocket errors gave the Pirates an 11-

8 edge in the top of the 7th and the Rockets could only muster one run off a single by Cassie Hamilton who stole second and third and scored on a Pirate error for the final 11-9.

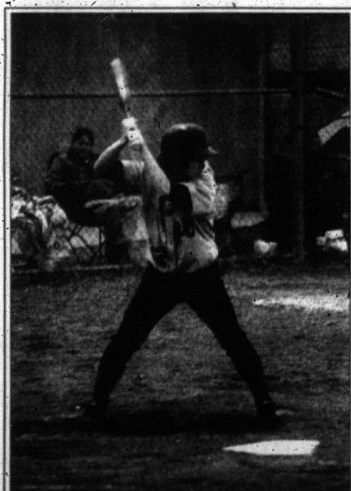
A good Jackson County pitcher kept the Rockets bats quiet while the Lady Generals were racking up 10 runs off 8 hits and 8 walks. The Rockets

only runs in the game came in the fourth inning. Childress drew a walk to begin the inning. Thacker singled up-center and got the RBI and Carter then singled to center to score Thacker.

The Jayvee team also lost to Berea and Jackson Co.



Freshman third baseman Cassie Hamilton and the rest of the Lady Rockets softball team found the going tough on Monday night against Jackson County. The Lady Rockets lost 10-2.



Senior left fielder, Josie Bengo and the Lady Rockets lost to Jackson County on Monday night 10-2. The Lady Rockets play at Casey County on Thursday night.

Hale named to Academic All-Conference Team

John Andrew Hale has been recognized by Mid-South Conference Commissioner, Thomas Dowling, as a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) Mid-South Academic All-Conference Team for 2000-2001.

Throughout its history, the NAIA has provided strong leadership for all aspects of intercollegiate sports. With its major emphasis on educational development, it was natural for the NAIA to further strengthen academic eligibility requirements in the mid-'80s. All NAIA participating student-athletes must maintain a certain grade-point average while accumulating credit hours for a declared academic degree. Unlike other associations, NAIA student-athlete academic eligibility is monitored on a term-by-term basis. Since 1937, the NAIA has administered athletics programs and championships in proper balance with the overall collegiate educational experience. Over 60,000 participating student-athletes in 13 sports for men and women make up the NAIA athletic pilgrim.

In order to be named to the team, athletes must maintain a 3.5 or higher GPA and excel in both the academic and athletic areas. Hale is a sophomore at Georgetown College, majoring in Math with a double minor in Religion and Psychology. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA during his four semesters at Georgetown while also

a member of the Georgetown Tigers Junior Varsity and Varsity football teams. A 1999 graduate of Rockcastle County High School, Andy is the son of John and Nancy Hale of Mt. Vernon.



Andy Hale

School News
deadline
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