

RCHS girls take measure of Garrard and Southwestern

The Rockcastle girls basketball team are ranked number 1 in the 13th Region in the Dave Cantrell rankings in the Lexington Herald and they are playing up to that standard, defeating Garrard Co. 65-37 and Southwestern Pulaski 71-46 in their last two outings.

Against Garrard County last Saturday night, the girls jumped out to a 17-6 first quarter lead and never looked back.

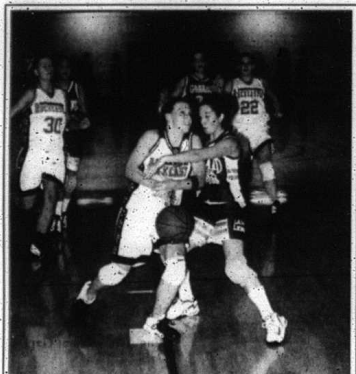
Nine Lady Rockets got into the scoring column for their team with Johnna Abney leading the way with 14 points. Tara Rowe added 10. Ashley Mink got 9; Jessie Hayes and Lauren Clontz 7 each; Katie Parsons 6; Heather Hammond 4 and Ashley Lumsford and Leighann Caldwell, 2 each.

The going was a little tougher against Southwestern with the Rockets ahead by one, 15-14, at the first quarter stop and by six at halftime, 20-24. The Rockets stretched their lead in the second half, outscoring the Warriors 41 to 22 for the final 25 point margin.

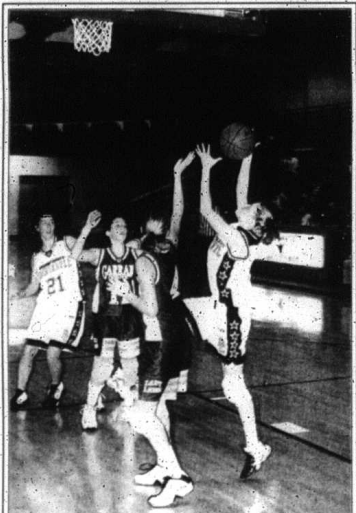
Senior Ashley Mink got scoring honors in the game with 30 points. Rowe had 23; Abney 17; Hammond 13; Hayes 5; Parsons and Ainsley Bussell 2 each and Clontz 1.

The Lady Rockets are now 16 and 4 on the season.

The girls and boys teams will travel to Jackson County next Tuesday night for a doubleheader district game and will also host North Laurel in a doubleheader on Friday night.



Johnna Abney tries to take it to the hole against a Lady Lion defender. Abney led her team in scoring in the game with 14. Also in the photo is senior Ashley Mink, No. 30 and junior Lauren Clontz, No. 22. Mink scored 9 points against Garrard and Clontz had 7.



Senior Jessie Hayes fights for a rebound against the Garrard County Lady Lions Saturday night. The Rockets won their 15th game of the season 61-37. Hayes scored 7 points in the game. Also in the photo is sophomore Katie Parsons, No. 21, who got 6 points.

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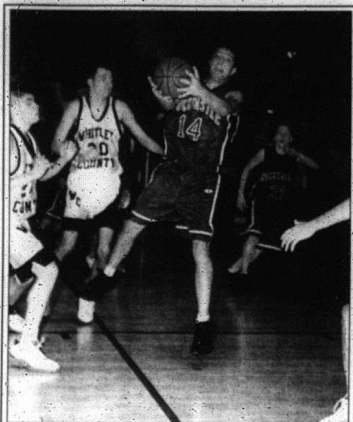
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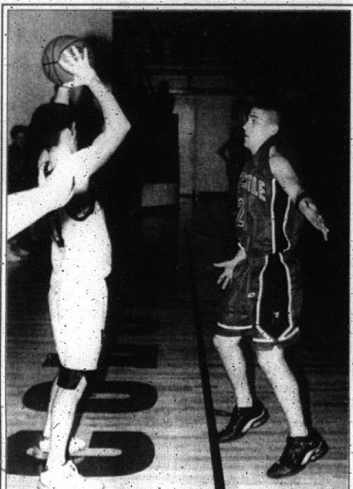
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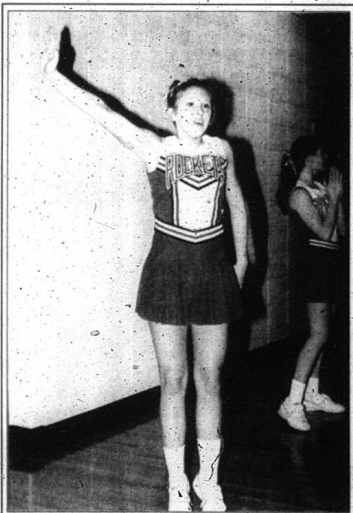
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Aron Anderkin grabs a rebound in the Rockets win over Whitley County. Anderkin had 11 points in the contest. Also in the photo is #21 Chris Settles.



Devin Taylor defends the inbounds pass at Whitley County last Friday night.



Brooke Smith cheers on the Lady Rockets against Garrard County last Saturday.

Rockets beat Whitley and Oneida; are 15-3

The Rockcastle County Rockets ran their record to 15-3 Tuesday night with a ten point win over visiting Oneida Baptist.

The Rockets, who have played only three home games this season, went about business as usual, handing the Mountaineers their seventh loss against nine wins.

The Rockets won 75-65. "I didn't think we played that well, but in all fairness to the boys we actually pulled out a good win, against a pretty good team," said head coach Clayton Cash.

Cash, who is in his eleventh season at the ROCK, said he was going to give his veteran squad the day off on Thursday, because they looked tired at times but he said, after the game, that his team was committed more than ever to remaining 13th region champs.

"These guys know what it takes to be winners and they aren't afraid of any team," he said.

The Rockets, who will host the district later this month, are ranked number one in the region, as are the Lady Rockets, who have lost only four games against 16 wins.

On Friday night, the Rockets defeated Whitley County on the road and, for the Rockets, it was much more than a road win.

The Rockets will attempt to defend their 13th region title at Whitley County and at least one player knows the importance of winning on the road and in a hostile environment.

"We came out tonight, didn't panic and we won as a team," said senior Chris Settles.

And a team is exactly how the Rockets played, putting five players in double figures in beating a team that had beaten Clay County in over-

time earlier in the week.

Austin Miller had 15, Aaron Cash, 13, Settles, 13, Aaron Anderkin, 11, Blake Roberts, 12, Jason Reynolds, 7, and Devin Taylor 4.

Cash was credited with 10 assists and two steals in the game and Anderkin won the rebounding war for the team with 11 total boards. Miller had seven rebounds and Settles six. Taylor helped out the Rockets cause mightily with seven steals from the Colonels.

Against Oneida, the Rockets won the first half, 39 to 26 but the Mountaineers came back in the last half to outscore the Rockets 39 to 36.

Aaron Cash led the scoring for his team with 17; Anderkin got 16; Settles 15; Miller 12; Roberts 8 and Reynolds 7.

Cash led in assists with 11 and one steal; Anderkin was credited with 4 assists and two steals and Settles got 3 assists and 1 steal.

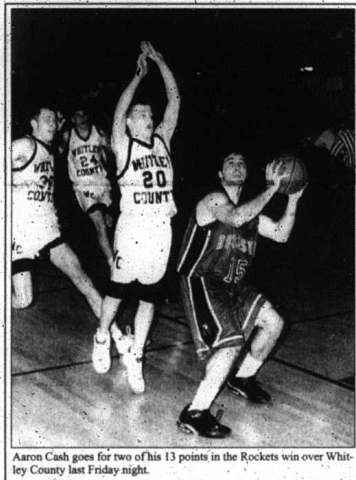
Anderkin pulled down eight total rebounds for his team; Roberts got 6 and Reynolds and Miller 4 each.

Besides the doubleheaders with the girls at Jackson County on Tuesday night and at home to North Laurel on Friday night, the boys will also host West Carter on Saturday night.

Homecoming Festivities

The Rockcastle County High School Basketball Homecoming will be held before the doubleheader with North Laurel next Friday night, February 14.

Festivities will begin at 5:45 p.m. with the presentation of the King and Queen candidates and the crowning ceremony. Parents, family and friends wishing to observe the activities should be in the gymnasium no later than 5:45.



Aaron Cash goes for two of his 13 points in the Rockets win over Whitley County last Friday night.

The Racing Reporter

Back to work for Jimmy Spencer by Gerald Hodges

The Racing Reporter

Jimmy Spencer of Berwick, Pa. is off the unemployment rolls.

Last Friday, Spencer signed a contract to drive Jim Smith's No. 7 Sirius Dodge in 2003. With the signing of Spencer, one of the last major puzzles of the off-season has come together. In addition, Spencer, a former NASCAR Modified competitor will be reunited with crew chief, Tommy Baldwin.

Spencer had two Winston Cup victories in 1994, at Daytona International Speedway in the Pepsi 400 and Talladega Superspeedway in the DieHard 500.

The Berwick, Pa., driver also has 12 NASCAR Busch Series wins to his credit, most recently last year's Food City 250 at Bristol Motor Speedway.

"I can't begin to tell you how excited I am about being a part of this team," Spencer said. "Jimmy Smith has been a NASCAR supporter for years."

His truck teams have been very successful and I expect the No. 7 team to be no different. "I'm very excited about this opportunity with Tommy Baldwin as the crew chief, Mike Ege building the engines and Sirius Satellite Radio sponsoring the car. We've got a chance to do big things this year."

Next year will be Spencer's 15th in Winston Cup. In addition to his two wins, he has four Bud Pole

Awards.

Baldwin was named crew chief of the No. 7 team last year after the November race in Atlanta. The Bellport, NY native has three Winston Cup victories as a crew chief. His last win came in last year's Daytona 500 with Ward Burton behind the wheel of the No. 22 Cat Pontiac.

Smith got into Winston Cup racing after buying out Geoffrey Bodine's team in 1997. He has also fielded Craftsman Truck series teams, with driver Ted Musgrave.

Classified deadline is Noon Tuesday

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