

"Rockets have many changes from 2003"

(Cont. From 4)

back will be sophomore Matthew Burkhardt.

While Larkey admits that the Rockets won't throw the ball near as much as they have the past few years, he does like what he sees in Burkhardt as an option and belly quarterback.

"Matthew does a really good job of reading the belly and the option," Larkey said.

Joining Burkhardt in the backfield at fullback will either be Junior Chris Croucher or sophomore Jamie Howard. Larkey says that Croucher has a slight edge at the position because of his blocking ability but that Howard is still competing for the job and will see some time.

Perhaps the smallest in shoes in size to fill will be that of Marty Reagan at tailback. However, these shoes are undisputably the biggest shoes in terms of statistics and numbers.

Junior Max Saylor and Senior Caleb Blair will both see time at tailback. Blair backed up Reagan last year. Saylor, who is recovering from a devastating foot injury that sidelined him for the entire 2002 season after the Lincoln County game and all of spring practice, seems to be fully rehabilitated and ready to make huge contributions.

Also seeing some time in the backfield should be senior Brandon Reams, the Junior Varsity MVP from a year ago.

Joining Leger and Thomas on the line will be seniors Blake Lovell, junior Graham Faye, and sophomore Mikey Denney. Denney will more than

likely play center, while Faye will play tackle and Lovell play guard.

Also expected to see action on the offensive line is senior James Isaacs who will more than likely play some tackle.

At tight end is where you should expect to see senior

captain Devon Bussell who may be one of Burkhardt's primary throwing targets, considering the playaction and screen passes the Rockets are expected to bring.

Larkey is very confident in his returning receiving corp. Juniors Derreck Hurst and Rick Sandusky both saw lots of time in the Rockets spread offense from last year.

While their responsibilities may change, Larkey likes the experience they bring to his young offense.

Taking care of Rocket placekicking and punting duties will be that of all-purpose player and senior Devin Taylor.

Taylor, who most Rocket faithful expect to see on both sides of the ball in the opening game at Corbin versus Larue County and possibly even at quarterback has missed virtually all of the summer due to obligations to his summer baseball that competes in the American Legion World Series this week.

"Taylor probably won't see much action on either side of the ball for a couple of games until he can get his feet wet," Larkey said. "However, he still will take care of the kicking duties right away."

On defense, the Rockets still are expected to sustain the normal intimidating status.

Although long-time Rocket defensive coordinator Tony Saylor has relinquished some of his duties to assistants Adam Coleman and J.D. Bussell, his foot is still very much in the program and his defense will still be ready to go.

As on offense, the experience and great ability lie with defensive line and seniors Jason Leger and Nick Thomas. Brandon Campbell, Graham Faye, Brad Wesley, and Blake Lovell will also see time on a defense line known state-

wide for their good play.

Middle linebacker Chris Croucher returns to the linebacking corps after a sensational sophomore year. Senior Devon Bussell will also play linebacker as he's projected to be a two-way starter. Juniors Josh Bustle and Rick Sandusky will also both be a part of the corps.

The defensive backfield will feature two returning starters, although they have to replace two starters from a year ago.

Junior Derreck Hurst will anchor the cornerback while Caleb Blair could play either corner or safety. Senior Cody Alexander will see action at safety.

Senior Jameson Cable could also see some action as a defensive back.

Who they lost:

Marty Reagan, RB/DB
Aaron Anderkin, QB
Tanner Abney, OL/DL
Stephen Boreing, TE/LB
Michael Brummett, OL/DL

Key returnees:

Jason Leger, Sr., OL/DL
Nick Thomas, Sr., OL/DL
Derreck Hurst, Jr., WR/DB
Devin Taylor, Sr., WR/DB/P/K
Chris Croucher, Jr., FB/LB
Max Saylor, Jr., TB/LB
Devon Bussell, TE/LB

Division one schools want Jason Leger

Ask Jason Leger, off the field about his ability to play football and it's pretty much a certainty that he will display modesty.

However, there's nothing modest or shy about Leger's play while on the field and his domination of opposing players.

Ask any head coach or offensive coordinator on Rockcastle County's schedule why they only run the ball to one side of the field. They will tell you that Jason Leger plays on the other side, and they don't want their ball carrier to run into him.

Or you could ask RCHS head coach Tom Larkey why he runs the ball to one side of the field more than half the time. His answer is easy; it's because Leger plays on that side of the field and it only makes sense to run behind him.

It's because he's pretty good.

Leger is indisputably the

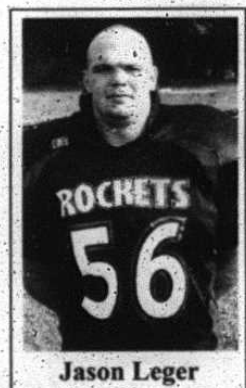
most heavily recruited player in Rockcastle County football history.

The lineman stands at 6'2 and weighs in at a stellar 275 lbs. He is a four-year starter on Larkey's line and he's ranked the best player in Class 3A Region 4.

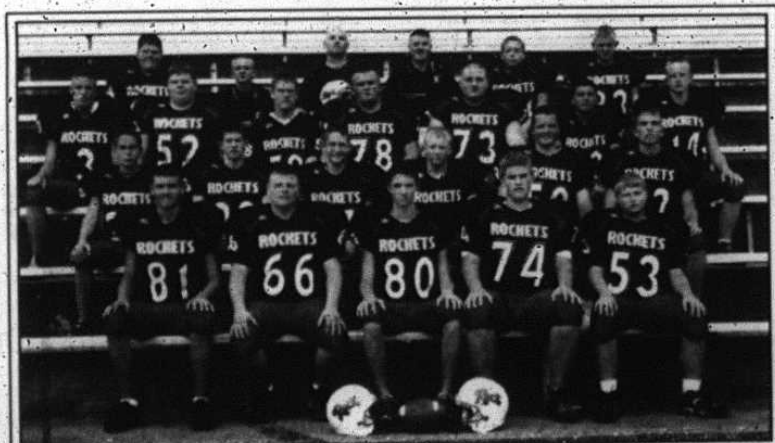
He should, without a doubt, be playing NCAA Division I-A football next year at this time.

He has received letters

(Cont. to 23)



Jason Leger



The Rockcastle County High School freshman team is pictured above, front row, from left: Shawn Childress, Travis Cromer, Lynn Miracle, Brad Durham and Adam Mink. Second row, from left: Josh Renner, Dusty Miller, Izak McQueary, Gus Scaff, Donovan Pigg and Paul Payne. Third row, from left: Josh Garrison, Billy Hines, Josh Gilbert, Joey Miller, David Robbins, Jacob Harding and Steven Eversole. Back row, from left: Aaron Hughes, Anthony Cook, coach Adam Childress, head coach Dackery Larkey, Robbie Carasello and Adam Hensley.