

Rockets lose to Dunbar

Only second regular season loss in three years

By: Richard Anderkin

They didn't go down without a hard fight, but the Rockcastle County Rockets football team lost their first game of the 2003 campaign on Friday, when Paul Laurence Dunbar won 24-14.

The Rockets were ahead 14-11 at half-time, but could score no more points in the second half on the 12th rated team in class 4A.

The game was played in Lexington and the loss was the Rockets only second regular season defeat in four years including this season.

The Rockets, who have been the state's class 3A runner-up for the past two seasons, had a chance to tie the football game with five minutes to go. The football was inside the five yard line, but the Rockets failed to punch it in.

On fourth and goal the Rockets attempted a field goal, but placekicker Devin Taylor's field goal attempt hit the uprights and Dunbar took over on the 20 yard line.

They proceeded to march down the field and score again.

"We made some mental mistakes during the game and I think our players have learned from them," said head coach Tom Larkey.

"I don't mind to lose, especially to a good team like Dunbar and when it's early in the season," he said.

Larkey hit the longest temper of any head football coach at the ROCK and has by far the most wins.

"We've made some adjustments

this week and we are taking Lincoln County very seriously," he said.

Lincoln County is the Rockets' next opponent and will play them at home on Friday night.

Although Lincoln County is 0-3, they have lost to some pretty good teams. Danville, East Jessamine County and Garrard County.

"We are certainly not looking over them and we also have some injuries from practice this week that concern us," Larkey said.

During practice this week, tailback Max Saylor, who has already had a very good year pulled a hamstring and junior linebacker Chris Croucher who also plays in the backfield had to have eight stitches.

"I think they both will be ready to play by Friday," the veteran coach said.

Friday, Dunbar had 355 yards of total offense, compared to the Rockets' 287.

Offensively, quarterback Matt Burkhardt was seven for 12 and 140 yards through the air. He threw one touchdown pass, that to Josh Hayes for 20 yards in the second quarter.

Senior all purpose player Devin Taylor threw two passes, one which was good for a seventy yard score.

Derrick Hurst was on the receiving end of the play action pass, which went for 70 yards. That was in the first quarter of play and gave the Rockets a 7-3 lead. Hurst would catch one more pass-good for 27 yards.

Senior Devon Buswell also caught two balls for 43 yards.

Besides throwing the 70 yard touchdown pass to Hurst, Taylor also caught two passes from Burkhardt for 36 yards. Taylor also kicked two extra points.

Croucher caught one pass for 14 yards and rushed the ball once for no yardage.

The Rockets leading rusher was Saylor, who had 62 yards on 21 carries. Jamie Howard had 40 yards on nine carries.

The Rockets had ten first downs and Dunbar had 11. The Rockets kept the ball 28.5 minutes and Dunbar had 19 only 19 minutes and eleven seconds.

Defensively the Rockets had several players, including their all-state candidate Jason Leger, who had seven tackles and assists.

Buswell also had the same stats with seven, as did Caleb Blair, who also recovered a fumble.

Ricky Sandusky had six tackles and assists and the only two quarter-back sacks of the game.

Senior defensive back Cody Alexander had six tackles.

Senior Nick Thomas had four tackles and assists and Croucher had five.

Hurst had three and Graham Faye had two.

Picking up a tackle each were Blake Lovell, Brandon Campbell and Saylor.

Game time at the ROCK is 7:30 p.m. this Friday.

One note of interest for Rocket fans. The Rockcastle County Board of Education has approved the construction of bleachers for visiting team fans, which will be completed by the beginning of next year's football season.

Football Update

Vikings 31 Wildcats 0
Tyler Smith, 1 TD; Zach Reams, 4 TDs; Travis Carpenter, 1 pt. conv.
Bengals 26 Redskins 7

Bengals: Backup Burkhardt, 2 TD and 2 pt. field goal; Boone Saylor, 1 TD; Josh McKinney, 1 TD.
Redskins: B.B. Brown, 1 TD and 1 pt. conv.

6th Grade 36 South Laurel 14
John L. Saylor, 4 TDs, Dakota McFerron, 2 TDs.



Rockets Derek Hurst and Chris Croucher bring down a Dunbar player in open field on Friday night. The Rockets lost 24-14 and play Lincoln County at home this Friday night. Also in the photo is #7, line-backer Devon Buswell.



The Rockets Division One prospect Jason Leger is shown bringing down a Dunbar player on Friday night. Also in the photo is #33 Max Saylor, the Rockets leading rusher on the season.

Lady Rockets beat SWP; lose to Lincoln County

After taking their second win of the season from the Lady Warriors of Southwestern Palaski on Thursday night, the Lady Rockets variety volleyball team didn't fare quite as well Monday night at Lincoln County, losing the match in three games, 22-25, 25-19 and 15-11.

In the first game, the Rockets had to come from 17-11 down to take a 20-18 lead and the eventual win. In the second game, the Rockets took an early 10-0 lead on service winners by Allison Anderkin and went on to the easy 25-13 win.

Anderkin took service honors in the game with 15 winners, including eight aces and was credited with two kills on defense. Jenna Owens served four points and got two kills; Stephanie Price put three service winners across with four kills; Krystal Parsons accounted for three winners with one ace; Sarah Mullins had an ace and four kills; Amanda Rogers was credited with two winning serves and one kill; Jeni Durham got a kill as did Rachel Childress, along with a block and Jessie Riddle made two blocks.

At Lincoln County Monday night, the Lady Rockets struggled the entire match. After being down 12-9 in the first game, the Rockets came back on five straight serves by Price to go up 17-13 but good serving by the Lady Patriots tied the score at 20 all and gave them the eventual 25-22 win.

The second game saw the Rockets also have to dig their way out of 7-3 deficit to tie the match 17-11 on excellent serving by Mullins and went on for the final 25-19 win.

In the third game, the game was tied six times, and the score was 6 all, before the Lady Patriots went up 14-8. Anderkin served three straight winners but gave the Patriots the winning point on an out of bounds serve.

Price and Mullins took service honors in the match with seven each, including two aces for Price and one for Mullins. K. Parsons got six service winners, Owens, Childress and Anderkin had four each, with an ace for Anderkin.

Childress led the defense with five kills. Price, Riddle and Anderkin had three each. Mullins accounted for two kills on defense. Jenna Owens served two kills and Riddle was credited with two blocks.

The Lady Rockets travel to Oneida Baptist Institute this Thursday night for a district game, host over-tough Palaski County next Tuesday, travel to South Laurel next Thursday and participate in the Madison Central Tournament Sat. Sept. 20th.

Jayvee beat SWP and Lincoln. It took three games but the Jayvee Lady Rockets took the match at Southwestern Palaski last Thursday night 21-16, 13-21 and 15-8.

Kayla Bryant put her team up 13-0 with 12 straight service winners, including nine aces but the Lady Warriors then came back to tie the score at 16 all before a turnover and

four straight service winners by Danielle Arnold gave the Rockets the win.

After losing the second game 21-13 on some poor serving and mental mistakes, the Rockets came back to take the third game 15-8.

Southwestern took an early 7-2 lead but, following a kill by Mink to get the ball back, Mink proceeded to put six straight service winners, including two aces, over to put her team up 9-7 and Rose Prewitt finished out the serving, five with three aces for the win.

In the match, Bryant took service honors with 16 and 11 aces. Arnold and Mink put six service winners each over with three aces for Arnold and two for Mink and Prewitt got two winners with two aces.

Defensively, Mink had three kills; Arnold two; Megan Anderkin and Prewitt one each and Anderkin also had a block.

At Lincoln County, Arnold got serving honors with fourteen serves and one ace, enroute to her team's 24-22 and 21-9 wins. Mink added five service winners and two aces; Bryant was three and one; Jessica Robinson was two aces for two serves and Prewitt added two winners.

Prewitt and Mink had four kills each; Holly Kidwell added two and Arnold, Bryant and Leighann Caldwell each added a kill in the win.

Freshmen win two. The Rocket freshmen were back in action against Southwestern, winning the match 21-19, 17-21 and 15-12. Erika McKinney took scoring honors on serve with nine winners, including six aces; Jill Owens was five and two; Kayla Bishop was three aces for three serves; Meredith Robinson got two aces in three serves.

(Cont. to A8)



Shown above are several members of the Rocket Junior Varsity team taking a break during Monday's action against Somerset. The Junior Varsity won 32-15.



Local runners participating in the Clay Co. 5K on August 30th are pictured above, from front row left: Jerry Cox, age group winner, Vicki Cox, overall female winner, Derrick Baker, second place in age group and Brandon Cole, second place in age group. Back row from left: Andrew Nelson, age group winner and second overall male; David Nelson, third place in age group and James Bullen, second place in age group.



The Cedar Rapids Dolphins swim team held their annual banquet on Sunday in recognition of this year's accomplishments. The team finished third in the conference. Award winners present at the banquet are shown above front row, from left: Lauren Graham, Courtney Bullock, Bethany Clontz, Douglas Hammon, Devin Poynter, Ashley Bullock and Kyle Mullins. Back row, from left: Hillary Proctor, Sara Hammond, Lauren Clontz, Ryan Graham, Dustin Poynter and Allison Anderkin. High point award winners this season were: Douglas Nicely and Lauren Burton in six and under age group, Ashton Arvin and Crystal Reddington in the seven and eight age group, Joe Baker and Sara Hammond in the nine and ten division, Dustin Bishop and Lauren Graham in the 11 and 12 division, Dustin Poynter and Emily Reddington in the 13 and 14 division, Ryan Graham and Lauren Clontz in the 15 and 16 group and Allison Anderkin and Cody Alexander in the 17 and 18 year old division. Other awards presented were to Nicely for Rookie of the Year and to Poynter, also Rookie of the Year. Most improved went to Kyle Mullins and Bethany Clontz. The 1100's award went to Hillary Proctor, the Hummingbird award went to Devin Poynter and Ashley Bullock and the Coaches Award went to Courtney Bullock. This year's Most Valuable Dolphin award went to Cody Alexander who was not in attendance.

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