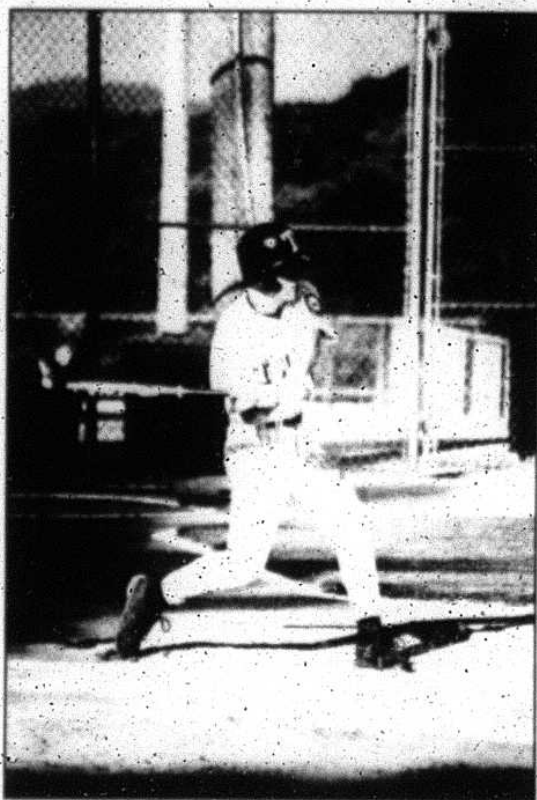




Senior Devin Taylor takes a swing for the Somerset Twins. The Twins placed third in the nation.

Two RCHS athletes compete at national level

By ALLISON ANDERKIN

Two RCHS students did more this entire summer than just enjoy a little R'n'R. Senior Devin Taylor and sophomore Colby Brown played baseball for the Somerset Twins American Legion Baseball team which, with their help, placed third in the nation.

Taylor, who is the starting hind catcher for the RCHS baseball team, also started for the Twins. Starting June 6, he played a total of 62 games. This was after already playing for the Rockets who went to state for the first time in school history. The next day he went to a tournament for the Twins in Tennessee.

This is Taylor's second season with the Twins and one of the teams' most successful. They won their district and state before earning third in the Great Lakes region of the nationals. This is only the second time they have ever won state.

Brown, who began playing with the Twins late this summer just before districts started, is a pitcher. The Twins asked him to pitch after they lost some of their most important pitchers as the regular season was ending. He was also the starting pitcher in the state game for the Rockets.

Taylor has plans for the future and says playing for the Twins can offer many opportunities.

"It helps players from smaller areas like Rockcastle to be seen more by colleges. Coach, who is a professional scout for the Cincinnati Reds, also has great connections with anyone, anywhere."

Eventually, he would like to play baseball at FSU.

The Twins is a team filled with players from across the state, including Boyle County, Russell County, Corbin, Somerset, and Laurel County. It consists of high school players from ages 16 to 18.

Both Taylor and Brown had conflicts with other sports because of baseball. Brown, who is also on the RCHS golf team, missed many of the practices and some of the first matches. Taylor, who plays football and was a starter last year, was not even able to practice until the week of the first game against Larue County at the Pigskin Classic.

"I am still suffering consequences in football, but I made a commitment to play for the Twins," he said.

Taylor does feel like all the practices, games, time and hard work were worth it after getting to play in a national tournament.

"The competition of the teams you play with is twice of that of the teams you will play with in high school. It's something different that you can't make with high school players. It helps make you a much better baseball player than you would have normally been."

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RCHS's volleyball team heads to state

Players hope three tin

By PAULA ROWLAND

Teenagers haven't always had a positive attitude when it comes time for school to start back. However, this year at RCHS, things have changed.

Girls are walking up and down the halls more excitedly, anticipation written on their faces.

"What has changed?" you ask. The answer is simple. New volleyball coaches have brought new-found hope to an RCHS team facing its third coach in three years.

With Coach Larry Lee's volleyball background of playing at ECU and Assistant

Coach Bill Yarnell's ten years in the sport, they feel the change has helped the team in a tremendous way.

"I think our experience will help the team wonderfully because we can teach the girls what we already know," said Coach Lee.

Senior Amanda Rogers has a positive outlook on her new coaches.

"The coaches know what they're talking about, and they're more our age so they can relate to us even better," she said.

However, the switch has