

The Rocket

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Rockcastle County High School

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CATS scores improve

By MARIA HENSLEY

The scores are in! That's right, last academic school year's CATS scores have been released to the public, but what *exactly* do they mean?

Annually, high school students across the commonwealth of Kentucky are given assessments to ensure that schools cover all proper curriculums. Soon thereafter, districts and individual schools receive the annual reports that determine how well or poorly the students have performed.

"Last year our scores slightly declined, but this year our scores increased," said Mr. John Hale, principal.

That is encouraging news for everyone, but there is a slight catch to how scores are calculated. Every two years, the single scores from those individual years are averaged together to create an 'accountability score'. This score is then measured to a set goal that increases bi-annually.

Whether the school meets our goal or not each year determines exactly how much funding our school receives and establishes if state assistance is required.

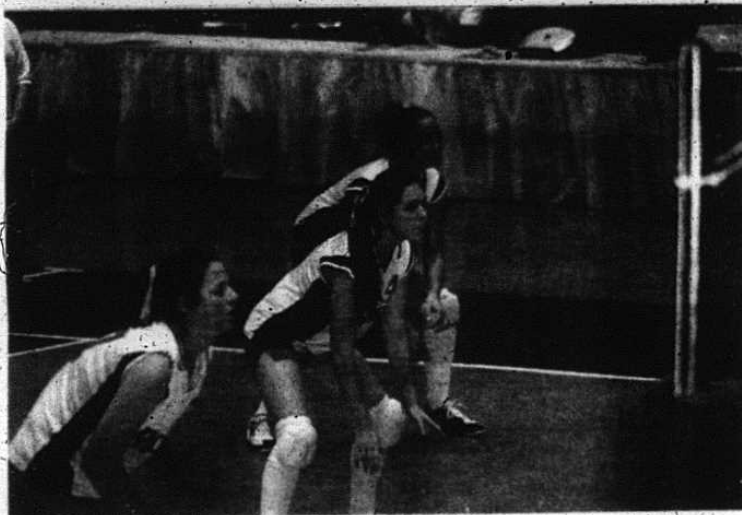
"We did not reach our goal of 74. We only lacked 3.2 points in reaching it," Mr. Hale said.

Despite the fact the school has not met our set goal yet, everyone still has this academic year to be combined into 2003's score. The good news is we are already 4.4 points above what is considered 'state assistance level' made by the content area of

"We are extremely proud of the hard work and school-wide effort shown this year's scores," pronounced Ms. Angie Hendrickson, French teacher and Department Head of Arts and Humanities, whose average score was 64.6680.

And there is much to be proud about. Test scores in every content area were boosted. The greatest visible improvement was Practical Living/Vocational Studies, rising from a 68.5 to an 84.8. Reading, as well as Arts and Humanities percentiles have also increased well over 10 points.

"We were excited to do so well in reading and in the writing pieces," reported Ms. Nancy Busseff, English teacher and Head of the English Department whose average score was 75.0581 for reading and 69.22 for writing.



Seniors Sarah Mullins, Jenna Owens, and Amanda Rogers prepare to receive against Sacred Heart's service. At left, senior Krystal Parsons prepares for an offensive hit.



Lady Rockets DIG IT

Lady Rockets finish winning season

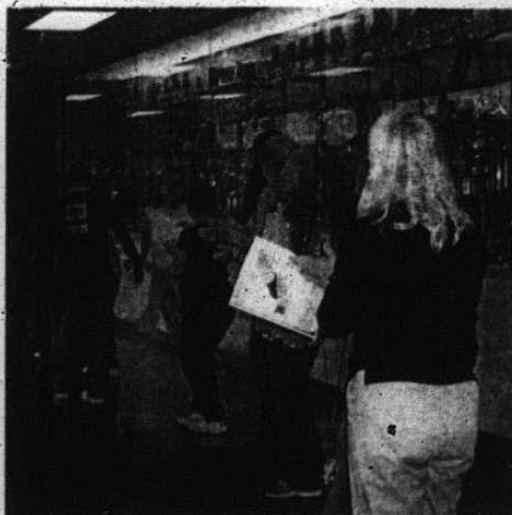
By ROCKET STAFF WRITER

Rockcastle's Lady Rockets Volleyball team made its first appearance in state competition Friday night, losing to eventual state champion Sacred Heart 2-0 (25-13, 25-11).

The team finished its season 26-17.

Earlier this season the team placed first in the annual Pulaski County tournament, second in the Madison Central tournament. They were also named district champions.

This season's team leaders were senior Allison Anderking in aces; senior Jessica Riddle in kills; Rachel Childress, also a senior, and Anderkin in blocks; senior Jenna Owens in assists.



Arts & Humanities teacher Alene Cornelius leads her class on dance day.