

ROCK beat Bulldogs, will play Mason Co.

By: Richard Andriuk

The Rockcastle County Rockets will play in Maysville on Friday in the second round of the play-offs.

The Rockets advanced to the second round after a 14-12 victory over Lawrence County on Friday night.

The Rockets will take a 9-2 record into Mason County, a team which is 11-2 on the season and ranked in the top 10 in the state.

The Rockets are also ranked high in Class 3A, but Friday night's game will be a dog fight.

"We are going ready to play and I think we have a good chance to win, but it probably would be an upset," said head coach Tom Larkey.

Friday night, Mason County defeated Madison Southern, 50-21. Their only loss this season was to Dunbar, a team that also defeated the Rockets.

"They have at least four division one prospects on their team and they have a great passing game," but here (Rockcastle) you never say never," the coach said.

The Rockets have competed in two state championship games in the past two years and if they win on Friday night they will play at home the next week, against either Boyd County or Ashland.

On Friday night, the Rockets racked up 303 yards of total offense and held Lawrence County to 256 yards.

Of those 256 yards, 240 were through the air.

The Rockets were down 6-0 with four minutes to go in the first half and Lawrence County had the ball on the one yard line on fourth down and goal, but the ROCK held.

This senior Devin Taylor threw a halfback pass to junior Derreck Hurst for a 74 yard touchdown.

Lawrence County jumped offside and the ROCK went for a two point conversion with Taylor scoring on a running play.

The ROCK would come out in the second half and score giving them a 14-6 lead. Their extra point attempt was blocked. Taylor scored that touchdown on a rushing play. He had 132 yards on 15 carries.

It should be noted that the ROCK premier lineman Jason Leger, blocked a Lawrence County kick the first time they scored as well.

"I'm proud of our players, we could have let down, but we didn't," said Larkey who has been the most successful head coach at the ROCK ever.

Other offensive stats are as follows: Max Saylor had 43 yards on 12 carries, Chris Croucher had two yards on one carry, Jamie Howard had 32 yards on eight carries, Hurst had eight yards on two carries and caught two passes for 70 yards, including the one for a touchdown.

Quarterback Matthew Burkhardt had four yards on two carries and he completed two of eight passes for eight yards and he threw one interception.

Defensively the Rockets were led in tackles and assists by Chris Croucher, Ricky Sandusky and Derreck Hurst each had six tackles and assists.

Besides blocking the extra point attempt, Leger had five tackles and a sack.

Taylor had four tackles and one interception.

"It may have been the best game Devin has ever played for the Rockets," Larkey said.

Fay Graham had two tackles, Brandon Campbell added two, Blake Lovell had one, Nick Thomas picked up five and Caleb Blair added five.

Devon Bussell, who played his first full game since an high ankle sprain at Bell County, had four tack-

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Senior Devin Taylor threw one touchdown pass and rushed for another and had a two point conversion. He also had an interception on the defensive side of the ball.



Senior Jason Leger is shown blocking an extra point attempt by Lawrence County on Friday night. The Rockets won in the first round of the play-offs and will play Mason County on Friday night.

Kayla Hayes Finishes 4th and Breaks All-Time RCHS Record RCHS Girls' Cross-Country Team places 9th in State Championships

The RCHS cross-country teams wrapped up another successful season with their final competition coming in the Class 2A State Championships this past Saturday at the Kentucky Horse Park. Temperatures were frigid with the addition of a slight breeze. Otherwise, the sun was shining and it was a beautiful day for running. There were 196 competitors in the girls' race and 207 in the boys' competition.

The RCHS girls' team qualified for the state championships after winning the Class 2A Region IV Championship title for the 2nd straight year after defeating 8th ranked Boyle County by one point. This also marked the 10th straight season that either an RCHS girl or team had qualified for the state cross-country

championships.

RCHS made the top ten for the 2nd straight season, finishing 9th overall out of over fifty schools that qualified for the state finals. Sophomore Kayla Hayes followed her 2nd straight individual regional championship title with the best ever performance at state for an RCHS cross-country runner. Kayla placed an amazing 4th overall with a new RCHS all-time record of 19:56.36. She also defeated two-time defend-

ing state champion Carmen Mims of Louisville Mercy Academy by over 17 seconds. Kayla's finish guaranteed her a 1st team all-state selection. Junior Heather Hammond came through with her best performance ever. Heather placed 35th overall in an impressive 21:47.76, a new personal best. Sophomore Jessi Asher ran very well despite a terrible fall over another competitor who had fallen. Jessi regained her composure

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The Rocket captains are shown above marching on to the field before Friday's game. They are from left: Nick Thomas, Blake Lovell, Devon Bussell and Jason Leger with Coach Tom Larkey.



Former Rocket, Jason Reynolds, played in his first college game for the Lindsey Wilson JV Blue Raiders last Saturday. He had 8 points, 2 assists, 2 rebounds, 2 blocks, 2 deflections & 1 steal. Unfortunately the Raiders went down to a 61-68 defeat at Ashbury College in this season opener. They were scheduled to play Georgetown College on Wednesday (last night), and then face a series of road games which include SE Illinois College, Ashbury College, Campbellsville Univ., and Cumberland Univ. in Lebanon, TN. They will play again at home in a scrimmage against Russell Springs High School on Nov. 29th, and host Campbellsville Univ. on Dec. 3rd.



Undefeated for eight years

Congratulations to the Broadhead Bengals Little League Football team on their 9-0 record and championship this year. This is the eighth consecutive year the Bengals have been undefeated. Members of this year's squad pictured are, from front, left: Shawn King, Jake Mitchell, Corey Crank, Casey Crank, Boone Saylor, Hunter Stocker, Josh McKinney, Matt Fields and Tucker Rose. Second row from left: Brandon Nickles, Kenton Adams, Tyler Holman, Dillon Thacker, Brandon Burkhardt, Caleb Paulitz, Brandon Proctor and Jackson Brock. Third row from left: Tony Jones, Tyler Elam, Tyler Mobley, Shannon Mink, Donald Divine, Andrew Swider, John Chaffee, Ashton Goodlove and Dillon Dammell. Back row from left: coaches Rick Dammell and Doug Brock. Not pictured, was coach Marly Reagan.



RCHS sophomore Kayla Hayes finished in the top five in the Class 2A State Championship for the second consecutive year. Kayla, a two-time individual regional champion and a first team all-state performer, finished 4th overall in the meet. She established a new all-time 5,000 meter record with her time of 19:56.39, the best finish ever for an RCHS cross-country runner in the state competition.



RCHS senior Andrew Nelson finished 20th in the Class 2A State Championship. His performance of 17:31 was the best ever for an RCHS boy at the state level.



The RCHS girls' Cross-Country Team finished in the top ten at the Class 2A State Championship for the second year in a row. The girls placed 9th overall. Team members include: (front) Michaela Hunter; (second row from left) Elizabeth Bussell, Ashley Bullock and Courtney Bullock; (back row from left) Kayla Hayes, Heather Hammond and Anna Guilfoill. Not pictured - Jessi Asher.



The RCHS boys' Cross-Country Team finished 14th overall at the Class 2A State Championship, their best finish ever. Team members include: (front from left) Blake Parsons and Andrew Penseil; (back row from left) Brandon Cole, Derrick Baker, Bill Burdett and Andrew Nelson.