

Rockets lose 21-19 to Mason County

The Rockcastle County Rocket football team's season ended Friday night, after they lost to Mason County in the second round of the play-offs.

Mason County had 233 yards of total offense, 140 through the air and 93 on the ground.

The ROCK managed only 96 yards of total offense and had only seven first downs compared to Mason County's 19.

None the less, Rocket Head Coach Tom Larkey said he was proud of his team's effort.

"They're a good team and will likely be in the state championship game in Louisville and our players put up a great fight," he said.

"I'm sure the entire coaching staff is proud of them," he said.

The Rockets ended the season with a nine and three record.

Mason County will play Ashland, Paul Hlazer this week in the regional finals.

Beside Blair's interception for a touchdown the Rockets scored another touchdown on an 85 yard kick-off return by junior Derreck Hurst.

Hurst scored with one minute left in the first half, after taking a hand-off from senior Devin Taylor, who actually received the kick from Mason County which had just scored.

Hurst got to the sideline and received a great block from freshman Donovan Pigg to give the Rockets a 19-14 lead at halftime.

The other Rocket score was a run from inside the ten by quarterback Matthew Burkhardt. His score was set-up by a 33 yard completion from Burkhardt to freshman Shawn Childress, who made a great catch.

Mason County had tipped the ball and Childress managed to catch it on the way to the ground.

However, that would be the Rockets last score of the game.

Mason County came out in the second half and scored early to take the lead 21-19. That would be all of the scoring for the game.

Offensive statistics for the Rockets are as follows:

Max Taylor had six yards on three carries.

Jamie Howard carried the ball 13 times for 38 yards and Burkhardt had seven yards on six carries, before leaving the game in the second half with an ankle injury.

Besides Childress's 33 yard catch, Hurst caught two balls for 12 yards and Billy Bales had one catch for 14 yards.

Taylor completed three passes for 26 yards and had an extra point kick.

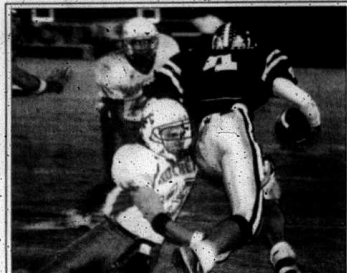
Rockets with tackles and assists were: Devon Bussell with six, Nick Thomas, four, Blake Lovell, two, Brandon Campbell five, Jason Leger, six, Sayler, two, Chris Croucher, with a team leading -12, Blair, seven, Hurst, five, Taylor, three, Brandon Reams, three, Ricky Sandusky, six, and Graham Faye, seven.



Blake Lovell, Graham Faye and Jason Leger make a hole for quarterback Matthew Burkhardt as he scores the Rockets second touchdown of the night. The Rockets went on to lose to Mason County 21-19.



Senior lineman Jason Leger makes a hit in the backfield for the Rockets. Leger had six tackles and one quarterback sack in the loss. Also in the photo are Graham Faye and Max Saylor.



Derreck Hurst brings down all-state wide receiver Chris Lofton in the Rockets 21-19 loss to Mason County last Friday night. Also in the photo, is Caleb Blair.



Ricky Sandusky makes a play on a Mason County running back last Friday night. The Rockets lost 21-19 in the second round of the playoffs.



John McQuarry presented Magistrates William Denny, Fred Mullins, Jr., David Gibbs, Bill McKinney, Ralph Allen, and County Judge Bruce Carlotti a plaque "In Recognition and Appreciation for Dedication & Support of Rockcastle County Little League and Senior League Baseball" at last Thursday's Fiscal Court meeting.

Labonte makes pass on final lap to win

By Gerald Hodges/Racing Reporter

Bill Elliott, who had the dominant car in Sunday's Winston Cup Ford 400, had a tire go down on the last and final lap of the 267 lap race, allowing Bobby Labonte to get his second win of the season.

"It was a gift," said Labonte. "He was so strong all day and could run wherever he wanted to, but when I saw that 9-car slow down, I told them on the radio, it's our time."

"It was pretty cool for us to win. It's been a long time without one."

Labonte's last win came in April at Atlanta, and it was the 21st of his career.

Elliott was able to pull away from the rest of the field on several restarts late in the race, but as he headed into turn 2 after taking the white flag, his No. 9 Dodge wiggled, and then slowed with a flat right tire.

After winning last week at Rockingham, and leading 183 laps, Elliott coasted home eighth.

Kevin Harvick, a second-place finish moved him into fifth spot in the final points standings.

Jimmie Johnson came in third and will finish the year in second place in the points. He went a lap down early in the race with a flat tire, but his team gave him quick pit stops throughout the remainder of the race, and he was able to make up the lap.

"There was such good work on pit road that we were able to advance forward and on top of that we had a good race car that we could race with."

Polesitter Jamie McMurray was ninth.

A week after clinching his first Winston Cup title, Matt Kenseth suffered the same fate that many of his competitors experienced this year as he lost an engine in his No. 17 DeWalt Ford during lap 34.



Bryan Marler, 11, killed this 10 point buck on Nov. 9th in Rockcastle County. He wants to thank his uncle Larry (Bub) Marler for taking him hunting.

the leaders," said Johnson.

Jeff Gordon had a good car, but he was never able to threaten the three leaders near the end of the race. "I couldn't be more happier with the effort put out today," said Gordon. "We didn't have the best car, the track kept getting tighter and tighter, we kept adjusting, and it was a great day for us."

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Ernie Croimer killed this 8 point buck during modern gun season. It was killed in Rockcastle County and weighed 135 lbs.



Brandon Deborde killed his first deer November 15th in Rockcastle County. It was a 10 point buck.



Matthew Ray Northern, 11, of Mt. Vernon, killed his first deer, Sunday, Nov. 16th, at Indian Creek in Jackson County. The 11 point buck weighed 175 lbs. Matthew is the son of Johnny and Jennifer Northern. He is the grandson of Charles and Bernice Northerns and Alfred and Audrey Carpenter. "I beat you Papa Alfred, you didn't even see a deer."

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