

Lady Rockets beat Butler and Jackson

Abney gets 11 in first two contests

The Rockcastle County Girls Basketball team, sporting their highest ranking in the state to date at No. 7, took out No. 10 Butler in their season opener and then traveled to Jackson County and got a district win over the No. 4 Lady Generals.

Against Butler, in the Eastern Extravaganza, the Rockets got down 7-0 before coming back to take the first quarter 19-14 and a halftime lead of 38-22. Butler outscored the Rockets by five in the third quarter and it was all even in the fourth but the Rockets came away with the 11-point, 69-58, win.

Junior Johnna Abney led the scoring for her team with 20 points; senior Lauren Clontz got 13; Tara Rowe scored 11; Heather Hammond 10; Ashley Lunsford 7 and Sarah Parsons and Rachel Stocker got 4 each.

Turnovers, or lack thereof for the Rockets, was the name of the game Tuesday night at Jackson County. The Lady Rockets' scrambling de-

fense caused the Generals to turn the ball over 28 times in the game, 14 each half, while committing only six turnovers themselves, four the first half and two the second.

The Rockets were down 17-10 at the first quarter stop and 26-23 at the half and the Generals were ahead 31-23 when Abney hit two three point shots and Rowe got a three and a two point basket to tie the score at 34 all. The Rockets had a 42-39 lead at the end of the third quarter, and, in the fourth, with Jackson County ahead 43-42, the Rockets caused four straight turnovers by the Generals to build a 51-43 lead. After that, the Rockets added to their win margin at the free throw line, hitting 12 of 18 chances for the final 63-58.

Abney again led the scoring with 31 points; Rowe got 20; Hammond 10 and Stocker 2.

The Rockets will host Lexington Christian Thursday night at 7:30 and will begin play in the Defender Classic by Brian Station against Pikeville on Saturday, December 13.

On Tuesday night, the Rockets will take on Ohio County at Lexington Catholic in the first round of the Fifth Third Prime Time Classic.



Junior Johnna Abney drives against a Jackson County General Tuesday night in a district win for the Rockets. Abney scored 31 points in the 63-58 win.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY

MARLA BRYANT HART

Framed photography can be viewed and purchased at The Bittersweet Cabin Museum Gift Shop
Renfro Valley, KY
Gift Shop 606-256-0715

Early Deadline Please Note!!

The December 25th issue of *The Mt. Vernon Signal* will be printed Tuesday, December 23. Deadline for news and ads for that issue is Monday, noon, December 22nd.

Also, the Signal office will be closed the week of Dec. 29 thru January 2 and the Signal will not be printed that week.

We have the Solution!!

Do you need to work but are caring for a loved one?
Do you need some time to yourself or need a break?

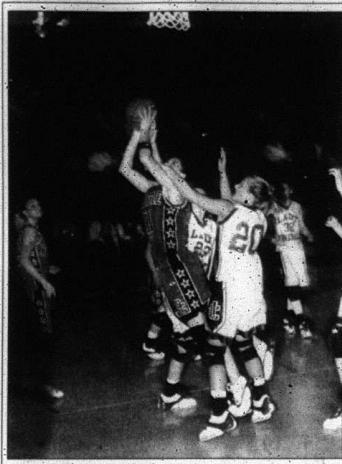
Contact the
Wayne Stewart Adult Health Center
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We provide a caring, loving and socially stimulating environment for your loved one.

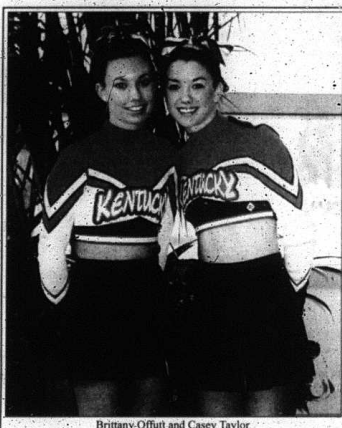
There is a nurse in the facility at all times to monitor vital signs, medications and any problems that may occur.

We are open Monday - Friday - 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Contact us at 606-256-0595



Junior Heather Hammond goes hard for the goal despite the determined efforts of a Jackson County General. Hammond got 10 points in the game.



Brittany Offutt and Casey Taylor

Local cheerleaders win National Championship

Brittany Offutt and Casey Taylor, both juniors at Rockcastle County High School and members of Kentucky Elite Senior All Star Cheerleading Squads, competed in the 2003 World Spirit Federation National Cheerleading Championships in Indianapolis on November 1-2. Kentucky Elite competed against several squads from across the country.

Brittany, a member of the small

Cody Alexander on ESPN2 Sunday night

Cody Alexander, a senior at RCHS, and a national finalist for the Wendy's Heisman Award, along with the other eleven finalists for the award, will be the subject of a segment on ESPN2 Sunday night, December 14th at 6:30.

The segment will feature a one and one-half minute clip on each of the six boys and six girls finalists.

L.A.W. program to present special program

There will be a two-hour special on *Drugs - A Reality Check*, given by the Let's All Work (L.A.W.) program at the Rockcastle County Middle School on Tuesday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m.

"We, as community members, have a responsibility to our families as well as each other to attend this two-hour drug and substance abuse awareness program," said Becky Cash, youth services center coordinator at RCMS.

Major Michael Bosse of the Lexington-Fayette County Police Department will give a straight-up presentation that will help the public understand what children are facing. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.

"Bring your family and invite friends to stand side-by-side against the drug problem facing our society," Mrs. Cash said.

For more information, call 606-256-5484.

Rockets beat Jackson; lose to Knox Central

Despite junior Aaron Cash's 35 points, the Rockets fell to Knox Central in their second game of the season 77-65. The Rockets won only the third quarter of the game, 18-14, losing the first 20-12, the second 22-17 and the fourth 21-18.

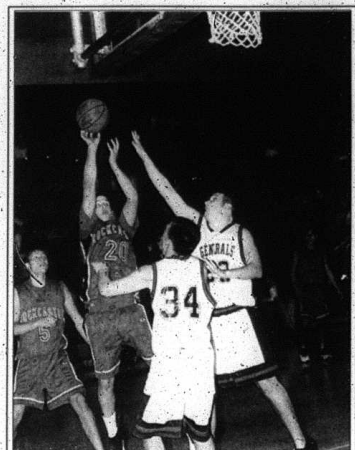
Besides Cash's 35, sophomore Colby Brown got 13; Blake Roberts and Kyle Mullins had 5 each; Brandon Cameron 3; Derreck Hurst 2 and Elijah Lunsford and Weston Riddle 1 each.

It was a tough battle at Jackson

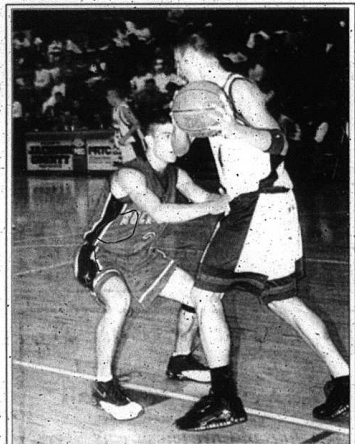
County Tuesday night, the Rockets had a rough first quarter, getting down 14-4 before a three by Devin Taylor and another by Colby Brown brought the score to 14-10. Jackson Co. responded with another basket but so did Brown and it was 16-12 at the first quarter stop.

The Generals got up 28-18 in the third quarter but the Rockets came back, with the help of a three by Kyle Mullins, to go within four. Brown got the next eight points, including

(Cont. to A-11)



Sophomore Colby Brown was a major factor in the Rockets 76-69 win over district foe Jackson County Tuesday night. In the above photo, Brown goes to the basket for two of his 20 points in the game. Also in the photo is junior center Blake Roberts, No. 5 and Devin Taylor.



Senior Devin Taylor played a great defensive game against the Jackson County Generals and hit a three point, almost half-court, shot at the end of the third quarter to put his team up 53-51. Taylor got 14 points in the game.



The Rockcastle County High School Dance Team won a trophy for "Best Originality" competing against 33 other dance teams at Wayne County Dance Competition on November 8, 2003. The dance team celebrated with a nice dinner at the Ponderosa Steak House in Somerset. The RCHS Dance Team has six members shown from left to right: April Benedict, Megan Rader, Surprise Stallworth (Captain), Vanessa Adams, Amanda Miller, and BreAnna Morgan. Also pictured in the photo is Dawn Stallworth (Coach).