

Kentucky Afield Outdoors 2012 Year in Review

It was a year for deer and bear season records, expanded public hunting opportunities and improved access to Kentucky's premier trout stream.

Here's a look back at a few of the top stories from 2012:

Kentucky hunters harvested a record number of white-tailed deer.

With 35 days of archery hunting and a two-day

youth season remaining before season's end, hunters eclipsed the overall deer harvest total record. As of Dec. 18, hunters harvested 126,923 deer. This total breaks the previous season record of 124,752 set in 2004.

Earlier in the fall, hunters reported bagging 92,737 whitetails during Kentucky's modern gun season which ended Monday, Nov. 25. Last spring, a record 68 deer from the 2011-12 season in Kentucky qualified for entry into the Boone and Crockett record book, the most for any state or Canadian province.

Bear season in Kentucky has come of age.

Kentucky's 2012 bear season was the first time hunters reached the harvest quota and in the process set a new state record.

Doug Adkins of Jenkins, Ky. took a 410-pound male bear in Letcher County. "That's the field-dressed weight," said Steve Dobey, bear program coordinator for Kentucky Fish and Wildlife. "The live weight would have likely exceeded 450 pounds."

Hunters purchased 359 permits for the 2012 hunt. Nine of the 11 bears taken were males.

By the late 2000s, black bears had made a comeback and were well established in eastern Kentucky. These bears did not come to Kentucky by a planned restoration effort, but by natural range expansion. Bears again colonized eastern Kentucky's mountain region from the neighboring states of West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee, where bear populations were never extirpated. herd along with excellent potential for small game and wild turkey.

New fishing opportunities await Kentucky anglers in 2012.

Anglers have two new places to wade fish in the trout-rich Cumberland tailwaters: the island adjacent to Rainbow Run shoal and Long Bar Island. This 75-mile section of river extends from Lake Cumberland's Wolf Creek Dam to the Tennessee line.

Both properties are in a bend of the Cumberland River near the Rock House, a natural arch off Ky 379 on the Russell-Clinton County line.

Long Bar is on the left side of the river, just upstream of the Rock House. It is off Ky. 1730 on Wells Bottom Road in Clinton County.

Rainbow Run is on the right side of the river, just downstream of the Rock House, and can only be

reached by boat.

With hope, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife will have

many other positive accomplishments in 2013.

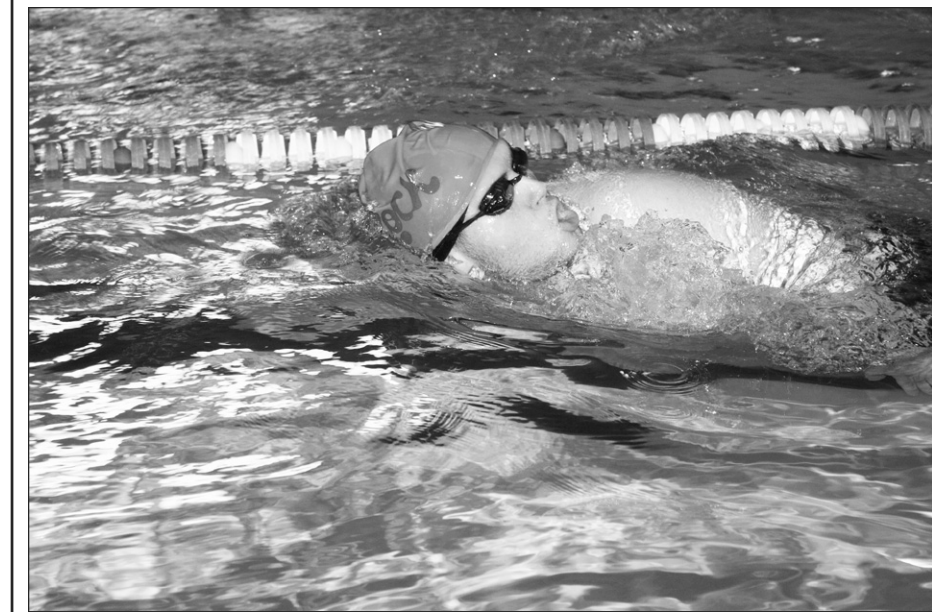


Senior guard Michaela Hunter attempts a jumpshot during Tuesday's 58-52 loss against the Somerset Briar Jumpers. Hunter led the Lady Rockets offense with 17 points.

Swim Rockets place 3rd at Barbourville

As the weather is cooling down for the season the Swim Rockets are heating up in the pool. In their last meet they placed 3Rd out of 7 teams. The Women's 200 yard Medley relay team of Lauren Burton swimming backstroke, Holly Cromer swimming breaststroke, Kellan Coffey swimming the butterfly and with Rachel Cain pulling anchor with the freestyle were able to get the meet off to a good start by winning the event. The Women's 200 yard freestyle team of Rachel Cain, Kellan Coffey, Emily Childress and Lauren Burton also placed 1st with a new school record and by finishing 15 seconds ahead of the next place team. Overall the women team finished 1st of 7. The Swim Rockets were one of the smaller teams competing that night. There was 13 out of 19 faster times in the individual events.

Women 200 Free	Improvement
2:33.37Y Coffey, Kellan	-1.74
2:39.99Y Cain, Rachel	-3.04
Women 50 Free	Improvement
32.50Y Clontz, Heather	-0.63
34.77Y Barron, Rebecca	-0.14
Men 50 Free	Improvement
29.76Y Taylor, Jacob	-0.53
32.94Y Hunt, Joseph	-0.40
Women 100 Fly	Improvement
1:09.28Y Burton, Lauren	-1.13
1:22.64Y Coffey, Kellan	-2.61
Men 100 Free	Improvement
1:09.55Y Taylor, Jacob	-2.60
1:28.51Y Taylor, Jacob D	-1.17
Women 100 Back	Improvement
1:09.32Y Burton, Lauren	-1.96
Women 100 Breast	Improvement
1:30.52Y Cromer, Holly	-2.55
1:32.81Y Childress, Emily	-2.06



Jacob Houk swimming freestyle.



Holly Cromer swimming breaststroke.

“Somerset”

(Cont. from Pg. 8)

75-49. the Rockets led 8 to 4 in the first quarter on two three point baskets by point guard Sam Pensol but that was the last time they would lead as Somerset came back to tie the score at 8 all and then outscore the Rockets 28-14 in the first half for a half time lead of 36-22.

Free throws did not play a part in this game as each team shot free throws 6 times with Somerset going 3/6 and the Rockets 1/6.

Leading the scoring for the Rockets was Pensol with 11, including three three point baskets; Josh Mason got 10; Corey McPhetridge and John Curtis Wilson each had 6 points; Ashton Arvin and Blake Mullins had 5 each and Ben Allen, Gage Reynolds and Tyler Parker each scored 2 points.

“Lady Rockets”

(Cont. from Pg. 8)

points, Amelia Eversole had 6, Kayla Reynolds got 4 and Alaina Coguer scored 2.

Head Coach Chrysti Noble said she is pleased with her team's effort that they gave in both tournaments over the holiday break.

“I am pleased with this team's effort over the holidays and I believe we showed signs of the killer instinct I have been looking for,” Noble said. “But we have got a long way to go and we have to stay focused as the 12th region is much more balanced and talented this year.”

The Lady Rockets will join the Rockets in a double header on Friday night as they will both take on the Pulaski County Maroons at home. Tip-off for the Lady Rockets game is at 6 p.m.

Noble said that Pulaski County is ranked 7th in the 12th region and that they are a much improved team over the past couple of seasons.

“The Lady Maroons reached the regional tournament last season for the first time since 2004,” Noble said. “They returned their star player Brittany Warren from last season who averaged over 18 points and 3 rebounds last year, if we want to win we will have to shut her down during the game.”

“Rockets”

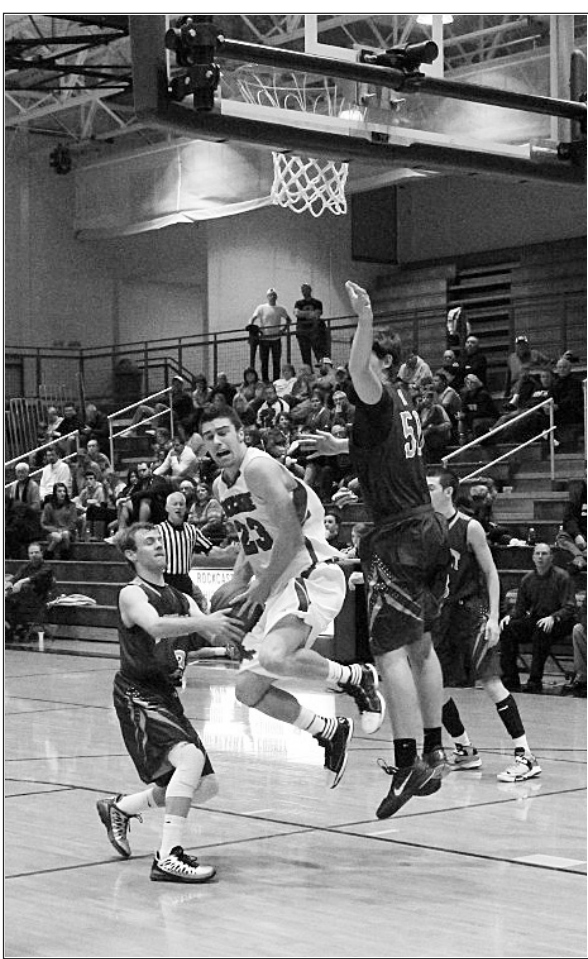
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three points or less,” Blanton said. “It's hard when you lose close games like that because you know your team played well, it's just that they didn't close out the game.”

The Rockets will join the Lady Rockets in a double header on Friday night when they will both take on the Pulaski County Maroons at home. Tip-off for the Rockets game is 7:30 p.m.

Blanton said that Pulaski County is ranked number one in the 12th region and 29th in the state. He said his team will have to play at a high level if they want to stay in the game against the Maroons.

“Pulaski County was the favorite to win our region this year as they returned shooting guards Taylor Gover and Kody Johnson who are two of the region's top ranked players,” Blanton said. “They will definitely be one of the toughest teams we have played all year.”



Junior guard Corey McPhetridge attempts to thread the lane during Tuesday's 75-49 loss against the Somerset Briar Jumpers. The Rockets went 3 for 5 during the Legacy Nissan Shootout and the Edmonton State Bank Holiday Classic.



Junior forward Josh Mason attempts a lay-up during Tuesday's 75-49 loss against the Somerset Briar Jumpers. Mason scored 10 points during the game.



Amelia Eversole, Alexis Chasteen, Alaina Coguer trap a Lady Briar Jumper during Tuesday's home game against Somerset. The Lady Rockets went 5 and 2 in two different holiday tournaments winning the Danville Lady Admirals Christmas Tournament and finishing third in the Landair Classic Tournament in Greeneville, Tennessee.

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