

Rockets suffer tough loss, 71-69, to Anderson County

By: Doug Ponder

The Rockcastle Rockets varsity basketball team is now 6-18 on the season after a nail-biting 71-69 loss at home to Anderson County last Friday night.

The Rockets fought a tough battle as they kept the game close against a favored Anderson County Bearcats team who have only lost two games this season.

The Bearcats came out strong, outscoring the Rockets 23-15 at the end of the first quarter and 41-34 at the end of the first half. After halftime, the Rockets came out of the locker room firing on all cylinders as they cut the lead to 59-56 at the end of the third quarter. At the beginning of the fourth quarter, the Rockets

jumped ahead of the Bearcats with a score of 61-59. However, the Rockets comeback would fall short in the end as the Bearcats put the game away with a final score of 71-69.

The Rockets were led in scoring by sophomore guard Sam Pensol with 23 points, senior center Ben Allen and junior guard Corey McPhetridge each had 11 points, senior guard Ashton Arvin scored 10, junior forward Josh Mason scored 9 and senior guard John Curtis Wilson had 5.

The Anderson County loss came after a 70-46 loss at Somerset last Thursday night against the top-ranked Pulaski County Maroons.

The Maroons are currently ranked number one in the 12th region and 23rd in

the state.

During last Thursday night's game, the Maroons jumped out to an early 27-8 lead at the end of the first quarter and held a 48-22 lead at the half. Their momentum continued into the second half as they led 70-34 at the end of the third quarter. The Maroons would hold on to put the game away in the fourth quarter with a final score of 70-46.

The Rockets were led in scoring by Ashton Arvin and Dakota Hasty who both had 10 points, Ben Allen was next with 9, John Curtis Wilson 8, Josh Mason 6, Sam Pensol 2 and Gage Reynolds 1.

Although his squad lost huge to a very talented Pulaski County team, head coach Benny Blanton said he is still proud of the Rockets overall performance against the Anderson County Bearcats.

"I think we played pretty well against Anderson County and I was pleased with our overall effort," Blanton said. "We just didn't execute at crucial times during the game. We also could have done better on our time management toward the end of the game as well. If we had corrected these two things then the

game would have probably had a different outcome."

The Rockets will travel to Corbin on Thursday to take on the Redhounds. Tip-off for the game is at 7:30 p.m. The Rockets will then return home for "Senior Night" on Friday as they take on the Garrard County Golden Lions. Tip-off for that game is also at 7:30 p.m.

Blanton said that Corbin and Garrard County are two more tough teams. He said in order for his squad to win these two games that they have execute at crucial times and always keep the game within their reach.

"I believe we are good enough to beat these two teams," Blanton said. "We beat Garrard County earlier in the season. We are very similar to these two teams and I believe if we stay focused we can beat them."

The Lady Rockets were idle for most of last week and they played the Pulaski County Maroons on Wednesday. Their next game will be on Friday as they travel to Somerset to take on the Southwestern Lady Warriors. Senior night for the Lady Rockets will be next Monday, February 11th at home against Madison Central.



Sophomore guard Sam Pensol shoots a lay-up during last Friday night's home loss against Anderson County. Pensol led the Rockets in scoring with 23 points. The Rockets also lost to Pulaski County last Thursday night 70-46.



Sophomore guard Blake Mullins shoots a 3-pointer during last Friday night's JV loss to Anderson County. The JV Rockets will travel to Corbin on Thursday to take on the Corbin Redhounds JV team. Tip-off for the game is at 6 p.m.



Sophomore guard Dakota Hasty attempts a jumpshot during last Friday night's JV loss to Anderson County at home. The Rockets JV team is now 11-5 on the season.



Junior forward Tyler Harper and junior guard Gage Reynolds trap a Bearcat during last Friday night's JV loss to Anderson County.



Senior center Ben Allen blocks a shot during last Friday night's 71-69 home loss to Anderson County. Also pictured are Ashton Arvin and John Curtis Wilson. The Rockets will travel to Corbin on Thursday to take on the Corbin Redhounds. Tip-off for the game is at 7:30 p.m. The Rockets will then return home for "Senior Night" on Friday as they take on the Garrard County Golden Lions. Tip-off for that game is also at 7:30 p.m.

Forward in the Fifth extends deadline for AppLE Awards

The nomination deadline for Forward in the Fifth's 2013 AppLE (Appalachian Leaders in Education) Awards has been extended through Feb. 28 to allow more time to complete and submit nomination forms from Rockcastle and surrounding counties within its expanded 45-county primary service area.

The AppLE Awards recognizes leaders in education, including local parent and student groups, who have made significant contributions to promote and support education in their home communities and throughout the region.

"Southern and Eastern

Kentucky is full of individuals who devote tireless efforts to improving education for young people and adults alike," said Jim Tackett, executive director of Forward in the Fifth. "We encourage individuals across our region to share their positive experiences through our nomination process, so these heroes can be recognized for their extraordinary deeds."

This year's AppLE Award nominations will be accepted in the following four award categories:

- Educators
- Early childhood (daycare, Head Start, and preschool programs)
- K-12 administration (superintendent, district office staff, principals, counselors)
- K-12 teachers
- K-12 support staff (bus drivers, cafeteria, Family Resource/Youth Services, librarian, custodial staff)
- Higher education (all positions)
- Business/community leaders or community organizations
- Parents or parent groups
- Students or student groups

For more information, call 606-677-6000 or visit www.fif.org/awards for a detailed description of each of the 2013 AppLE Award categories, eligibility requirements, and nomination forms.

Nomination forms may be submitted online or post-marked and mailed to Forward in the Fifth at 2292

South Hwy. 27, Somerset, KY 42501 no later than February 28, 2013. Submissions by fax or telephone will not be accepted.

"Through the AppLE Awards, we are honored to recognize those individuals who go beyond the day-to-day demands of their positions to create an exceptional educational environment," said Dr. Dessie Bowling, Forward in the Fifth board chair. "These are the valuable contributions which assist our young people and communities to reach their full potential."

Award finalists will be notified by Forward in the Fifth, and the winners announced at a special event in the spring of 2013.

Nominations will be accepted within Forward in the Fifth's 45-county primary service area, which includes: Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter,

Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Russell, Rowan, Taylor, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe counties.



Drug Tip Hotline

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(toll-free - your name is not required)

Toll-free Treatment Help Line

1-866-90-UNITE

Little League Sign-ups

Every Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
at Mt. Vernon Elementary

Costs: Baseball - \$50, \$40 ea. additional child
Tee-Ball - \$35 per child
Girls' Softball - \$50 per child

Contact Jerry Saylor for more info.
606-392-1539



Rock Elite won 1st place in the 2013 GroundHog Day Explosion in Richmond. Pictured are, front from left: Dakota Kirby, Britton Robinson, Josh Thacker and Logan Noel. Back row from left: Coach Billy Todd, Coach Rockie Robinson, Trevor Todd, Seth Shepherd, Bentley Taylor, Caleb Burns and Coach Gary Burns. Not pictured: Tanner Noel and Garrett Hamilton.