Madison Southern ends Rockets long winning streak with 41-13 win

By: Doug Ponder

The Rockcastle County Rockets football team's 18 game win streak, over the Madison Southern Eagles, came to an end last Friday night when the Rockets lost 41-13.

Madison Southern's triumphant win was largely due to their highly-touted running back junior Damien Harris .who had a total of 286 yards and scored all six touchdowns for the Eagles.

Harris is the number two running back in the nation for the 2015 graduating class, according to Scout.com. He recently committed to play college football for the Michigan Wolverines.

However, the Rockets defense stunned Harris in the first half as they held him to only 18 yards rushing on offense.

The first quarter proved to be a defensive battle between the two teams with neither offense putting any points on the board.

The Rockets were first to get on the scoreboard late in the second quarter with a 51 yard touchdown strike from senior quarterback Corey McPhetridge to junior receiver John Hughes. The extra point was good, giving the Rockets a 7-0 lead.

Harris answered the Rockets touchdown drive on the next play by returning a 65 yard kickoff for a touchdown and a 7-6 halftime score.

After halftime, the Rockets scored on their first offensive possession in the third quarter on a 60 yard touchdown pass from McPhetridge to senior receiver Tyler Harper. The two point conversion was no good making the score 13-6.

Following the Rockets touchdown, the Eagles coaching staff made adjustments on their first possession of the second half by switching to the Wildcat formation and snapping the ball directly to Harris.

On the first snap from the Wildcat formation, Harris rushed 16 yards for a touchdown. The extra point was good tying the game at 13-13.

The Rockets then fumbled the ball on their next offensive possession, giving it to the Eagles on their 58 yard line. Harris would then run the ball 42 yards on the next play to give the Eagles their first lead of the game at 19-13, after the missed extra point attempt.

The Rockets were forced to punt from their own goal line on their next possession late in the third quarter which gave the Eagles excellent field position on their own 31 yard line. On the next play, Harris ran the ball up the middle for a 31 yard touchdown. The two point conversion was good making it 27-13.

The Rockets would punt the ball on their next possession and Harris would score again on a 51 yard rushing touchdown with 17 seconds left in the third quarter making it 33-13 after a missed extra point attempt.

Harris would go on to score his sixth touchdown in the fourth quarter after a two yard rush. He also scored the two point conversion making the final score 41-13.

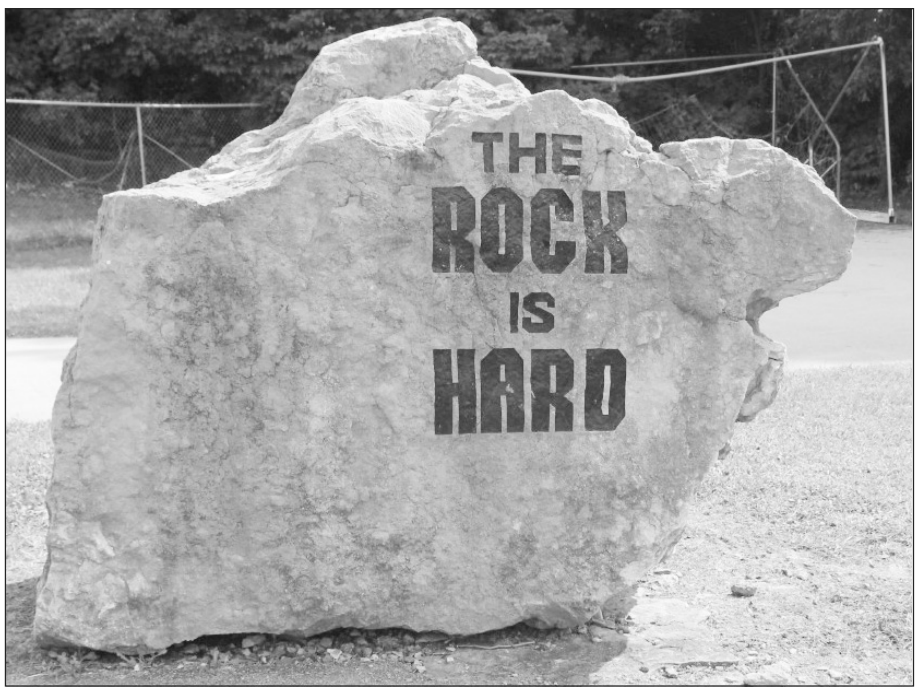
The Rockets offense was led by McPhetridge who finished the game 13 out of 28 passing for 184 yards and two touchdowns with one interception.

Junior Isaiah Adams led the ground attack with 55 yards on four carries. Senior Jacob Bussell rushed for 19 yards on six carries, senior Brandon Jones 4 yards on four carries, sophomore Dylan Rowe 3 yards on one carry and freshman Dalton Rowe 1 yard on one carry.

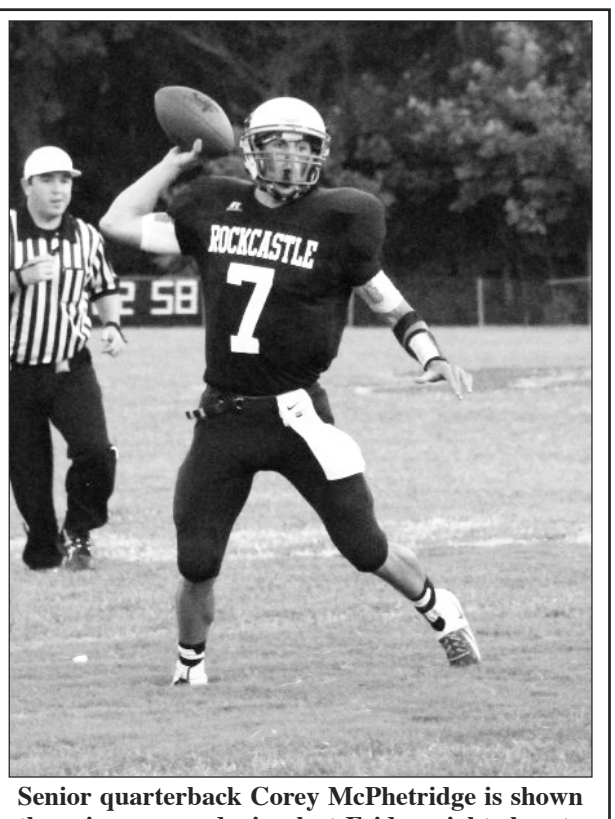
Senior Tyler Harper led the receiving corps, catching four passes for 78 yards and one touchdown. Junior John Hughes also had a big

(Cont. to A7)

Senior defensive lineman Jared Lake is shown bringing down Madison Southern's highly-touted running back Damien Harris during last Friday night's 41-13 loss to Madison Southern.



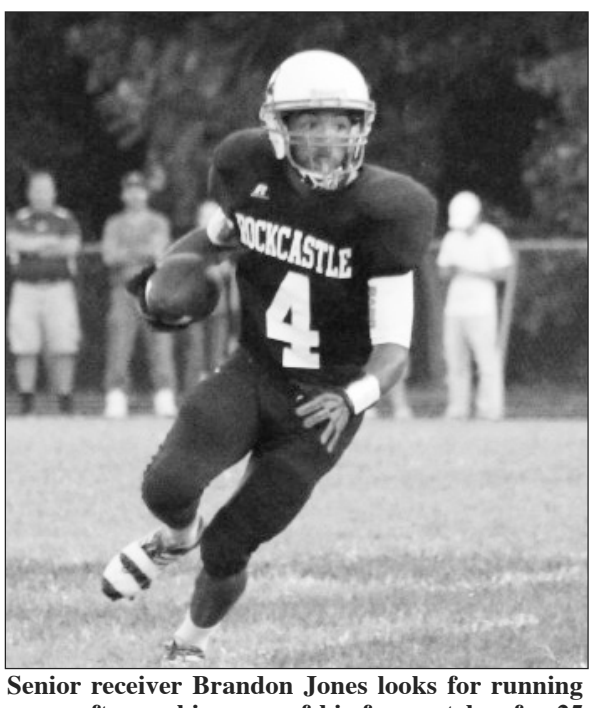
Rumors spread like wildfire about the alleged vandalism that took place after Madison Southern's 41-13 win last Friday night. Hundreds of Madison Southen fans stormed the field to celebrate the end of the Rockets 18 game winning streak. School personnel and police confirmed that one Madison Southern fan came on the field with a sledgehammer and struck the ROCK painted emblem in the middle of the field. Police escorted the fan off the field and a Madison Southern coach took the sledgehammer, which is allegedly a team symbol, back to the sidelines. Although there was trash talking between the players and fans, authorities confirmed that no fights broke out during the celebration. The coaching staff from both teams escorted the players back to the locker room without shaking hands due to the Madison Southern fans storming the field. Several RCHS students and Rocket fans updated posts on social media websites claiming that a Madison Southern fan hit "The Rock" in the end zone and knocked a piece off the bottom right of the monument. Several Madison Southern students also updated social media websites saying one of their fans hit "The Rock" with a sledgehammer. Upon further investigation, police and school officials found no proof that anyone hit "The Rock" with a sledgehammer and they claim the monument hasn't changed from looking at previous photographs.



Senior quarterback Corey McPhetridge is shown throwing a pass during last Friday nights loss to Madison Southern. The Rockets offense was led by McPhetridge who finished the game 13 out of 28 in passing for 184 yards and two touchdowns with one interception.

Freshman Chayse McClure is shown attempting to grab a pass against a Southern defender. McClure made one catch for four yards and he led the Rockets defense with eight tackles.

Junior running back Isaiah Adams is shown picking up yardage during last Friday night's loss to Madison Southern. Adams led the ground attack for the Rockets with 55 yards on four carries.



Senior receiver Brandon Jones looks for running room after making one of his four catches for 25 yards. The Rockets will play West Jessamine Colts at home this Friday night at 7:30.

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Fans for both teams came out in full support for their team last Friday night. RCHS Assistant Principal and Athletic Director Barry Noble said they believe the attendance for the game was more than 3,500. Noble said they have never kept attendance records for the home games in past seasons but he believes Last Friday night's crowd was the largest crowd to ever attend a game at the Rocket facility.