

Rockets defeat Whitley, 28-9, for first win of season

By Doug Ponder

The Rockcastle County Rockets won their first game of the 2013 season by defeating the Whitley County Colonels 28-9 last Friday night in Williamsburg.

The Rocket defense forced four turnovers and held the Colonel offense to 192 total yards with 111 rushing yards and 81 passing yards. Unlike the Colonels, the Rockets had a great night offensively as they gained a total of 348 yards - 134 yards on the ground and 214 through the air.

Junior fullback Chance Ansardi got the Rockets into the scoring column first with a 9 yard touchdown run. The extra point was good and

gave the Rockets a 7-0 lead late in the first quarter.

The Rocket defense shut down the Colonels offense on the next possession when junior defensive back Kyle Denney intercepted a pass from Colonels' quarterback Luke Woods. The Rockets took advantage of the momentum swing after the interception as senior quarterback Corey McPhetridge threw a 14 yard touchdown strike to senior wide receiver Tyler Harper. The two point conversion attempt was no good making the score 13-0 early in the second quarter.

The Rockets scored again on their next drive with another rushing touch-

down from 17 yards out by Ansardi. The two point conversion was good to make the score an even 21-0.

Whitley County fired back on their next possession when running back Austin Ysidro broke free for a 45 yard touchdown run. The extra point was no good cutting the Rockets lead to 21-6 in the middle of the second quarter.

The Rockets made it to the red zone in their next possession before Ysidro intercepted a pass from McPhetridge. The Colonels then drove the ball 84 yards before freshman linebacker Austin Mills recovered a fumble by Woods to put an end to the Colonels scoring threat. However, the Colonels forced a fumble on the Rockets next possession and, with time running out in the second quarter, Colonels kicker Alex Conlin drilled a 39 yard field goal to make the score 21-9 at halftime.

The third quarter proved to be a defensive battle between the two opponents with neither team putting any points on the board.

In the fourth quarter, the Rockets put the game away when McPhetridge connected with Harper on a 26 yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good making the final score 28-9.

Offensively, the Rockets were led by McPhetridge who was 13 out of 20 pass attempts for 214 yards and two touchdowns with one interception. McPhetridge picked up 21 yards on the ground as well.

Ansardi also had a big night on offense leading the Rockets in rushing with 64 yards on 13 carries and two touchdowns.

Other Rockets picking up rushing yards were junior Isaiah Adams with 24 yards on four carries and freshman Dalton Rowe with 15 yards on four carries. Senior Brandon Jones and freshman Chayse McClure were both credited with 5 yards on one carry.

Senior Tyler Harper led the receiving corps with seven catches for 103 yards and two touchdowns. Senior John Hughes made two catches for 70 yards and Jones had four catches for 41 yards.

Defensively, the Rockets were led by Mills who had the best performance of his career with 14 tackles, two sacks, two fumble recoveries and a blocked punt.

Other Rockets picking up tackles and assists were McClure with 9, senior Jared Lake and Ansardi with 6 each, freshman Logan Coffey with 4 and one sack, Adams with 4, Denny and Hughes both had 3 and one interception each, senior R.C. Kirby and senior Koty Benghe with 3 each, junior Justin Hughes with 2 and Rowe with one.

Head Coach Scott Parkey said he was impressed with his team, especially freshman Austin Mills who made his debut at middle linebacker and got 14 tackles, 2 sacks, 2 fumble

(Cont. to A9)



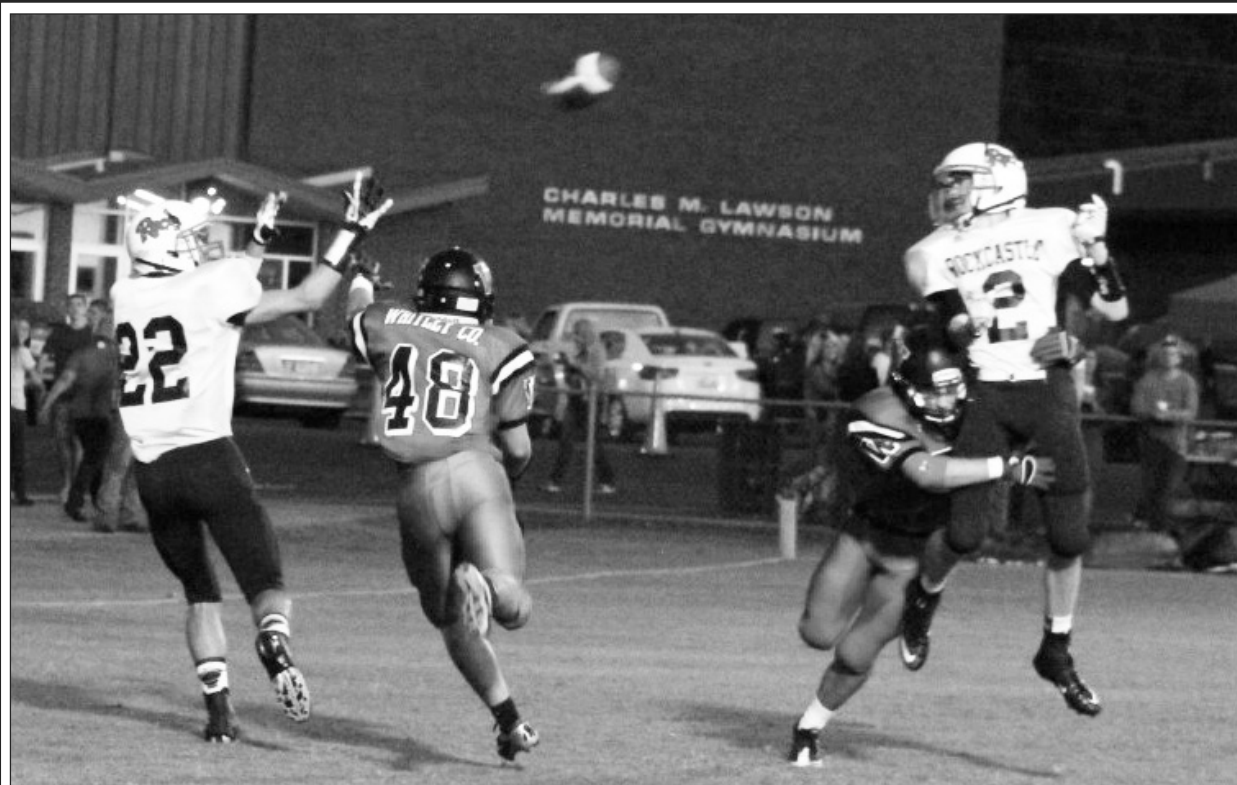
Freshman Chayse McGuire makes a shoe-string tackle during last Friday night's 28-9 win against Whitley County. The Rockets will play the Pulaski County Maroons at home this Friday night at 7:30 p.m.



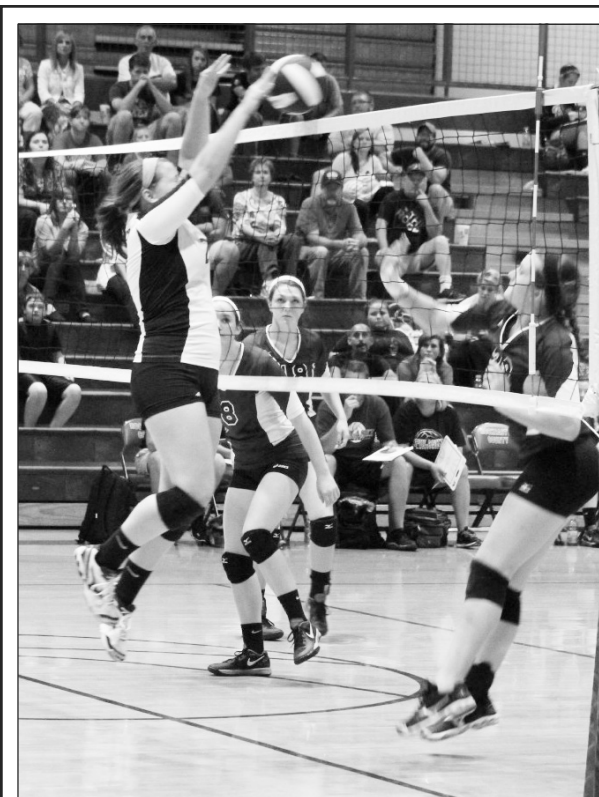
Freshman Austin Mills chases down Whitley County's quarterback during the Rockets first win of the season last Friday night. Mills led the Rocket defense and had the best performance of his career with 14 tackles, 2 sacks, two fumble recoveries and one blocked punt.



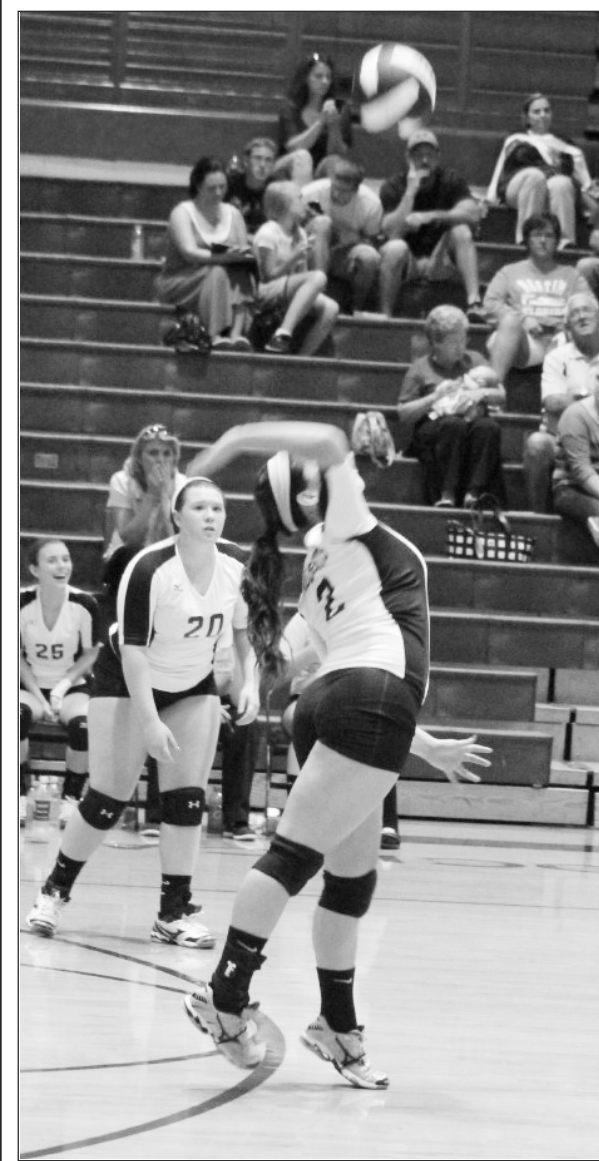
Senior John Hughes tackles Whitley County's quarterback during last Friday night's win. Hughes caught two passes for 70 yards on offense and had three tackles and one interception on defense.



Senior Tyler Harper catches a touchdown pass during last Friday night's 28-9 win against Whitley County. Harper led the receiving corps with seven catches for 103 yards and two touchdowns.



Abbey Eaton gets a kill during last Thursday night's 0-3 loss. The Lady Rockets will play Russell County at home Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.



Gabby Miller goes for a spike during last Thursday night's 0-3 loss to Pulaski County. The Lady Rockets are now 6-7 on the season.

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