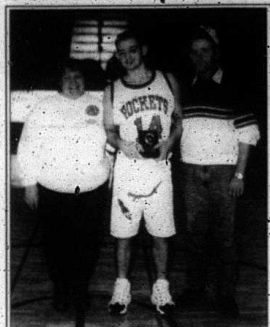


Seniors honored



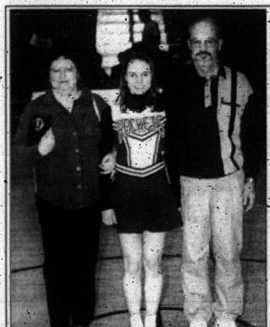
Rockcastle Co. Rockets held Senior Night last Thursday night and honored senior ball players, cheerleaders and their parents. Pictured above is Thomas Coffey, with his parents, Thomas and Kathy Coffey of Mt. Vernon. The Lady Rockets, along with band members, will be honored this Friday night in the Lady Rockets final home game against Middlesboro. There will be no JV game with varsity game beginning at 6:30. Senior presentations will be made before the game.



Josh Rowland with his parents, Zach and Ann Rowland of Mt. Vernon.

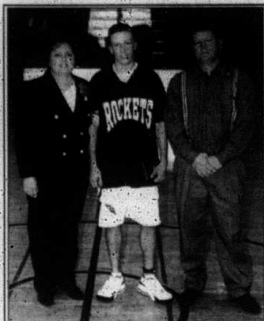


Ladonya Mink and her mother, Darlene Mink of Calloway.



Cathie Midkiff with her parents, Stephen and Patricia Midkiff of Mt. Vernon.

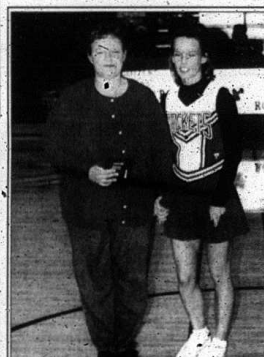
To Kathy Coffey:
If there is a basketball angel, you would be it! Thank you for showing such a strong support for #44, but most of all thank you from the depths of a Mother and sister's heart, for making a way for us to go to the away games over the past four years. The memories are unforgettable!
Thanks, Ann & Paula, Row's Family



Jeremy Neely along with his parents, Darryle and Jennifer Neely of Mt. Vernon.



Tara Burton and her parents, Terry and Cindy Burton of Brodhead.



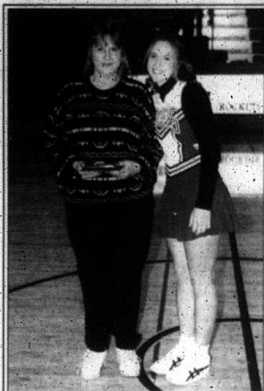
Jennifer Carmack with her mother, Yvonne Carmack of Mt. Vernon.



Chelsen Stratton with her parents, Philip and Serena Stratton of Wildie.

Fast-Pitch Signups

Attention all girls age 7-12. Fast-pitch softball sign-ups at Celena's Hair Salon in Brodhead from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, February 26th and 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, March 1st. For more information, call Sherry Spragens at 758-8062 or Celena Bullock at 758-0135. Cost is approx. \$30. Deadline is March 1st.



Stormie Ambrose and her mother, Brenda Ambrose of Mt. Vernon.



John Hankins and his mother, Nona Chasteen of Brodhead.

The Racing Reporter

Daytona victory for other Waltrip

By Gerald Hodges

Michael Waltrip had competed in 462 regular Winston Cup races with-out a win, the longest in the history of NASCAR. But Sunday in front of over 200,000 fans at Daytona International Speedway and millions more at home, Darrell Waltrip's younger brother took the checkered flag ahead of Dale Earnhardt Jr.

"This is what we've prayed for," said Darrell, as tears streamed down his face in the Fox Broadcasting tower. "Our daddy would be so proud."

While Waltrip was celebrating in Victory Lane his car owner, Dale Earnhardt, who had been blocking for him during the last 11 laps was being attended to by EMS Personnel in turn four. Earnhardt lost control of his No. 3 Chevrolet and crashed into the outer wall of turn four on the last lap, taking Ken Schrader's No. 36 M&M Chevrolet with him.

Schrader walked away unhurt, but Earnhardt was taken to a local hospital.

"I know I would never have won today without the help of Dale Jr.," Waltrip said. "You can't win these type (restrictor-plate) races without friends. And I've got to thank him and daddy too, who had faith in me and was back there blocking."

"There were a lot of people who didn't think I could win, but I showed up every Sunday and did my job, and today after going 0 for 462, I won one of these things. Me and my brother have both won the Daytona 500 (Darrell won it in 1989).

A major pileup occurred on lap 174 of the 200-lap event as the middle of the field of cars was between turns one and two. The first three cars involved were the No. 4 Kodak Chevrolet driven by Robby Gordon, the No. 22 Caterpillar Dodge of Ward Burton and the No. 20 of Tony Stewart.

It appeared the nose of Gordon's car touched the rear of the No. 22, causing Burton to lose control and swerve into Stewart's No. 20.

"Erom what I'm being told the No. 4 car hit me, and after that things got wild," Ward Burton said.

All 18 drivers including Tony Stewart, who was taken to the hospital, walked away.

"I'm really sorry about what happened," Robby Gordon said. "The 22 car got a little loose and I got into him. Then he got into Tony (Stewart) and it was just a mess after that."

Waltrip was able to get by Earnhardt Sr. on lap 188. Two laps later, Dale Jr. pulled in behind Waltrip and the two Earnhardts were able to hold off all challengers, including Sterling Marlin for the last 10 laps.

The 49 lead changes in the Daytona 500 tied the most lead changes in all of 2000, which was set at Talladega in October. It was also the most in a Daytona 500 since there were 59 in 1983.

In 2000, there were only 14 lead changes in all the NASCAR Winston Cup races held during Speedweeks (Budweiser Shootout, both Gatorade 125s and the Daytona 500). In 2001, there were 89 lead changes with 49 occurring in the Daytona 500.

2001 marked the first time since 1989 that Dale Earnhardt has been shut out in Speedweeks at Daytona.

Finishing order: 1. Michael Waltrip, 2. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 3. Rusty Wallace, 4. Ricky Rudd, 5. Bill Elliott, 6. Mike Wallace, 7. Sterling Marlin, 8. Bobby Hamilton, 9. Jeremy Mayfield, 10. Stacy Compton, 11. Joe Nemechek, 12. Dale Earnhardt, 13. Ken Schrader, 14. Robert Pressley, 15. Brett Bodine, 16. Kyle Petty, 17. Ron Hornaday, 18. Elliott Sadler, 19. Jeff Burton, 20. Casey Atwood, 21. Matt Kenseth, 22. Dale Jarrett, 23. Ricky Craven, 24. Terry Labonte, 25. Kenny Wallace, 26. Mike Skinner, 27. Jimmy Spencer, 28. Johnny Benson, 29. Buckshot Jones, 30. Jeff Gordon, 31. Steve Park, 32. Jerry Nadeau, 33. Mark Martin, 34. Jason Leffler, 35. Ward Burton, 36. Tony Stewart, 37. Robby Gordon, 38. Andy Houston, 39. John Andretti, 40. Bobby Labonte, 41. Kurt Busch, 42. Dave Blaney, 43. Jeff Purvis.

DAYTONA PURSE: FAR SHORT OF NASCAR PROMISE

The 2001 Daytona 500 purse did not live up to expectations. NASCAR officials had said in 1999 that all Winston Cup purses would quadruple in 2001 due to the new television contract with NBC and Fox. Last year's Daytona 500 paid \$9,367,816, while this year's purse will be just a little over \$11 million, an increase of less than 25 per cent.

THREE DODGES FINISH IN TOP-10

Even though Dodge did not win their first big race, they did make a good showing. Bill Elliott, the pole sitter came in fifth, while Sterling Marlin who finished seventh appeared to have the strongest car in the 43-car field. The top-10 finishing order was almost evenly divided

with four Fords, three Chevrolets and three Dodges.

LALOE WINS HIS THIRD NAPA 300 BUSCH RACE SINCE 1997

Randy LaJoie, driver of the No. 7 Kleenex Chevrolet, won his third-Busch Grand National race at the Daytona International Speedway since 1997. The win under caution was LaJoie's 14th career victory but only his fourth since 1998. Kevin Harvick was second, Matt Kenseth was third, defending series champion Jeff Green was fourth and Jimmie Johnson rounded out the top five.

LaJoie worked with his car after the rain delay to stay near the front. On Lap 109, LaJoie passed Purvis, who led the most laps, for the lead.

"We had a good run," LaJoie said. "I had a goodrun going into 3 and I tried the outside to see if it worked better on the top than on the bottom. I got a good run and I got a good push from Nemechek, (Joe Nemechek, LaJoie's car owner)."

Finishing order: 1. Randy LaJoie, 2. Kevin Harvick, 3. Matt Kenseth, 4. Jeff Green, 5. Jimmie Johnson, 6. Mike McLaughlin, 7. Jason Keller, 8. Kenny Wallace, 9. Chad Little, 10. Tim Sauter, 11. Jamie McMurray, 12. Shane Hall, 13. Marty Houston, 14. Hank Parker Jr., 15. Scott Wimmer, 16. Rich Bickle, 17. Joe Bessey, 18. Kelly Denton, 19. Larry Foyt, 20. Mark Green, 21. Lyndon Amick, 22. Greg Biffle, 23. David Green, 24. Tim Fedeaux, 25. Jay Sauter, 26. Steve Giggum, 27. PJ Jones, 28. Jeff Purvis, 29. Mike Dillon, 30. Blaise Alexander, 31. Ashton Lewis Jr., 32. Joe Nemechek, 33. Bobby Hamilton Jr., 34. David Starr, 35. Brad Baker, 36. Tony Raimex, 37. Michael Waltrip, 38. Todd Bodine, 39. Kevin Grubb, 40. Mike Bliss, 41. Chad Chaffin, 42. Bobby Hamilton, 43. Elton Sawyer.

More Racing Reporter on A8



Senior cheerleaders gave loyal Rocket fan David Brock a thank you gift in appreciation for his support over the years. From left are: Chelsen Stratton, Cathie Midkiff, Jennifer Carmack, David Brock, John Hankins, Ladonya Mink, Stormie Ambrose and Tara Burton.