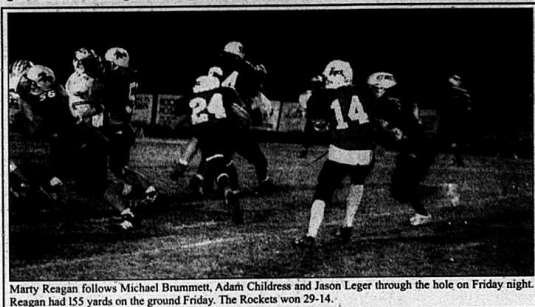
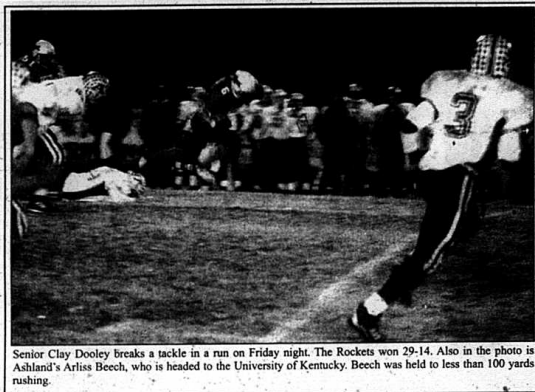




Marty Reagan follows Michael Brummett, Adam Childress and Jason Leger through the hole on Friday night. Reagan had 155 yards on the ground Friday. The Rockets won 29-14.



Senior Clay Dooley breaks a tackle in a run on Friday night. The Rockets won 29-14. Also in the photo is Ashland's Arliss Beech, who is headed to the University of Kentucky. Beech was held to less than 100 yards rushing.

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Will host Bell County in regional championship

Rockets overcome early mistakes, beat Ashland

The Rockcastle County Rockets overcame some mental mistakes early and a fumble in the second quarter on a punt return to win their 12th straight game of the season on Friday night.

The 29-14 win over Ashland Paul Blazer in the second round of the play-offs set up a re-match between Rockcastle County and Bell County, a team the Rockets defeated earlier in the season 34-2.

Rockcastle and Bell County are two of the eight teams left in the Class 3A playoffs in the state.

The Rockets defeated Bell County in Middlesboro, to cap off a second straight undefeated regular season, but headcoach Tom Larkey is concerned about this week's match-up.

"I dread it, it is hard to beat a good team twice and Bell County is a good team," he said.

Last week Bell County shutout the state's number one leading rushing team, Lawrence County, 8-0.

Friday night was also the first time all season long the Rockets have been behind.

Ashland scored twice in the second quarter both on runs by U.K. signee Arliss Beech.

The Rockets were down at one point 14 to 0.

With 1:48 left in the first half the Rockets finally got on the board, when junior Marty Reagan scored from two yards out.

Reagan also added the two extra points, after Ashland jumped offside on the extra point attempt.

The touchdown was set up by a 27 yard pass completion from quarterback Aaron Anderkin to wideout Devin Taylor.

Rockcastle got the football at the beginning of the second half and took little time to go ahead.

Reagan scored again on a 15 yard run to give the Rockets a 15 to 14 lead.

The ROCK would never lead back.

The Rockets scored again in the third on a 24 yard screen pass from Anderkin to Reagan.

Senior Josh Hale finished the scoring in the fourth period on a 36 yard pass from Anderkin.

When it was all said and done the UK recruit, Beech had gained 91 yards on 24 carries, but the Rockets had held Ashland to just 79 total yards.

All total the Rockets gained 352 yards on offense, 171 through the air and 181 yards on the ground.

Anderkin was 12 for 22 passing. He threw two touchdown passes and one interception. He had nine yards rushing on one carry.

Reagan had by far the best offensive game of the night, picking up 155 yards rushing on 25 carries. He also had 52 yards on two catches.

Senior Clay Dooley had 21 yards on two carries. Senior Josh Taylor had 37 yards on two carries.

Hale caught five passes, for 82 yards, although he was double covered most of the night.

Sophomore Devin Taylor caught two passes for 37 yards.

The Rocket defense was led by senior middle linebacker William Blair.

Blair had twelve tackles and assists, many of those tackles were stops against Beech.

P.J. Rowe, Jason Leger, Steve Blair and Stephen Boring all had sacks in the game.

Rowe had five tackles, Leger, two, Turner Abney, one, Steve Blair, two, Adam Childress, four, Boring, three, Dooley, five, James Michael Bussell, three, Reagan, nine and Hale, seven.

"If we do not play better than we did against Bell County the first time, we will not win the regional championship," Larkey said.

Game time Friday night is 7:30 p.m. at the ROCK.

If the Rockets do get by Bell County in the regional championship, they will travel most likely to Lexington Catholic, another undefeated team in 3A.

ROCK vs. Tomcats

By Preston Parrett

The Tomcats came down from Ashland

And they came to play. They were going to go all out To salt the Rock away.

The first quarter was a defensive battle. With neither team able to score, But the Tomcats scored in the second And then came back for one more.

The second quarter was coming to a close. When the Rock struck, As Reagan went over the line Like a ten ton truck.

The Rock came out in the third quarter With blood in their eye, As Reagan on a fifteen yard run Left the Tomcat defenders high and dry.

Aaron Anderkin cranked up his arm And laid one out to Marty, Who carried it over And the Rock began to party.

The Rock defense came Rock hard And then the Tomcats into shock,

As the great posse defense Shook how it was played at the Rock.

The Rock struck again On a pass to Josh from Big "A," That secured the game for the Rock And blew the Tomcats away.

The Rock had courageously fought back By being tough and lean, And they had shown everyone That they were a well coached fighting machine.

The victory brought up a rematch With the Bobcats of Bell, Whom the Rock had defeated on log mountain.

Better known as the Dudley Hilton Hotel.

Congrats to coaches, team, cheerleaders, dance team, honor guard, fans and band.

You all are really first class. So let's gear up for another battle And cut the Bobcats off at the pass.

Hunting is safe recreation

Many people wrongly assume hunting to be inherently dangerous. According to statistics from the National Safety Council, hunting is one of the safest forms of recreation in the United States.

More people are injured playing ping-pong or shooting billiards than hunting each year in the U. S. For every 100,000 participants, who spend many hours alone, hunters reported seven injuries due to hunting incidents. If things such as ammunition reloading accidents and other ancillary events are taken out of the equation, the number of hunting incidents per 100,000 drops to less than two.

By comparison, playing football caused 3,313 accidents per 100,000 participants. Cycling caused 1,189 accidents per 100,000 participants. Golf had 185, bowling had 60. Therefore, over six times as many people reported accidents while bowling than while hunting.

Mac Lang, hunter education administrator for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, says hunters can reduce the number of hunting incidents to zero if they follow some basic rules.

"Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded gun," Lang said. "This is the Cardinal rule of gun safety."

"If you follow these three basic rules, you will not have any hunter incidents," Lang continued. "Number one is to keep your muzzle pointed in a safe direction at all times. Number two is to keep your action open and your gun unloaded until you are in the field ready to shoot. Number three is keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot."

"One final item is positive target identification," he said. "Most of our hunting incidents this year involve improper target identification."

Common sense also is a very important aspect of gun safety. "Never mimic the animal you are hunting," Lang explained, "and don't wear the colors of the animal you are hunting."

Hunter education is mandatory in Kentucky for all licensed hunters born on or after January 1, 1975. Wearing hunter orange clothing is also mandatory for hunters who are hunting in a location and during any season when hunting deer with firearms is permitted.

Seventh grade wins conference tourney

The Rockcastle County Middle School seventh grade Lady Rockets recently won their conference tournament by beating Meece in the championship game. They also finished the regular season as conference co-champions with a record of 15-1 and overall record of 22-4.

The Lady Rockets beat North Laurel in the semi-final game by a score of 52-48. Scoring for the Lady Rockets were: Jill Owens with five, Ainsley Bussell had nine, Meagan Griffin scored seven, Lura Cash added nine, Ashley Stewart pumped in 18, Ashley Dollins and Leanna Mink each scored two.

In the championship game the Rockets defeated Meece 40-35. Scoring for the Lady Rockets were: Jill Owens with one, Ainsley Bussell scored eight, Meagan Griffin scored 11, Lura Cash scored 13 and Ashley Stewart added seven.

The team is coached by Melissa Singleton.

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Members of the 7th grade Lady Rockets are pictured above, first row from left: Ashley Dollins, Morgan Kincer, Jill Owens and Victoria Clontz. Second row from left: Anna Reynolds, Leanna Mink, Meagan Griffin, Ashley Stewart, Lura Cash and Ainsley Bussell. Third row from left: Bethany Taylor, Hollie Barnett, coach Melissa Singleton, Leanna Holden, Kayla Stewart and Meredith Robinson.