

Rockets win third straight

The Rockcastle County Rocket varsity basketball team won their third straight game on Tuesday with a 71-51 win over visiting Oneida Baptist.

The win ran the Rockets record to 4 and 2 on the season and 2 and 1 in the district.

Although the Rockets won by 20 points, they found themselves down 12 to 3 in the first period and ahead only 3 points at halftime. Much of their troubles were due to turnovers, which they basically eliminated in the second half.

"We got it together in the second half - our kids played better defense and made better decisions," head coach Clayton Cash said.

It also didn't hurt the Rockets that they were a perfect 8 for 8 from the free throw line.

Senior center Andrew Hammond scored 22 points on 11 for 17 shooting.

He also had a game high 13 rebounds.

Junior Aaron Anderkin added 19

points, making 4 of 10 from 3 point range and 3 for 4 inside the arc. He also was one for one from the free throw line and had 7 rebounds.

Junior Jason Reynolds had 14 points, on a night that saw him go 5 for 6 from two point range and 1 for 4 from three point range.

Reynolds also was 2 for 2 from the foul line and had 3 rebounds. Freshman Aaron Cash had 10 points on 4 for 6 shooting and he made both his free throw attempts. He had 4 rebounds.

Juniors Stephen Boring, Austin Miller and Chris Settles each had two points.

Boring had 3 rebounds and Settles had 1. Settles and Miller were both 2 for 2 from the foul line and Boring was 1 for 2 from the field.

Overall the Rockets shot 54 percent from the field.

The Rockets have a couple of busy weeks ahead of them.

They will travel to McCleary

Central High School on Thursday (today) to take on Southwestern Pulaski County at 9 p.m.

The Rockets will also play at McCleary Central on Friday and Saturday.

Next week they will travel to Berea where they will also play at least three games, possibly four, beginning the day after Christmas when they take on Berea at 9 a.m.

In J.V. action the Rockets defeated Oneida 31 to 27 behind a balanced attack.

All nine Rockets who dressed saw action.

The Rockets lead 9-8, 18-10 and 24 to 21 at the end of the first three quarters.

Scoring for the J.V. went as follows: Brandon Cameron, 2, Darrin Harris, 6, Devin Taylor, 6, James Isaacs, 6, Derek Hurst, 4, Blake Roberts, 2, Ronny Lee McClure, 5.

Lady Rockets lose to Pulaski Co.

The Rockcastle Lady Rockets dropped their third game of the season last Saturday night as they lost to Pulaski Co. 54-35.

The Lady Rockets never could get much offense going as they managed only double digits once, 13 in the third quarter.

Pulaski County jumped out on the Lady Rockets 14-8 at the end of the first quarter and only added to that lead in the second by outscoring the Lady Rockets 16-8 for a 30-16 lead at the half. The Lady Rockets did manage to outscore the Lady Maroons 13-10 in the third quarter but managed only six points in the final period.

Tara Rowe led the Lady Rockets with 11. Heather Hammond scored eight, Johanna Abney, Jessie Hayes and Amber Denney each scored six.

The Lady Rockets will travel to Gatlinburg this weekend to take part in the Queen of the Smokies Invitational and will host their own invitational tourney Dec. 26-29.

Jayves win two

The Lady Rocket jayvees upset their record to a perfect 5-0 after wins over Pulaski County and Whitley County.

The girls defeated Pulaski County 37-34. Lauren Clontz was the leading scorer for the Lady Rockets with 17. Katie Parsons had six, Stephanie Price scored five, Ashley Kimbrell added four, Ashley Lunsford scored three and Holly Ann Colson scored two.

The girls also picked up a 42-28

win over Whitley County. Clontz again led the way with 10, Heather Hammond scored nine, Tara Rowe and Lunsford each added seven, Price scored three and Parsons, Kimbrell and Anna Guilfoil each scored two.

Freshmen win two

The Lady Rocket freshmen picked up a win over Madison Southern last Friday. Colson was the leading scorer

with six, Jessie Asher, Allie Mink, Ashley Bell and Ashley Kimbrell each scored four and Ainsley Bussell, Heather Hopkins and Lara Cash each scored two.

The freshmen also picked up a 32-31 win over Whitley County.

Colson led the way with 11, Sarah Parsons scored eight, Kimbrell added seven, Asher, Mink and Hopkins all added two.

The Racing Reporter

The Little Man is Going, Going.

Going in Winston Cup

By Gerald Hodges

The Racing Reporter

There are only two owner/drivers left on the Winston Cup circuit, Dave Marcis and Brett Bodine. And soon there will only be one, because the 61-year-old Marcis will be taking his last ride in the 2002 Daytona 500, February 17.

I have felt for a long time that the days of the owner-driver were over, because of the amount of the investment needed to successfully compete full-time on the Winston Cup circuit.

With primary sponsorships costing up to \$15 million, NASCAR has become so "high dollar" that it is beginning to become an exclusive club, much like Formula One. Even extending down into the Busch series, the amount of investment is prohibiting competition. In Busch, it has even reached the point that there are

just enough cars entered to fill the starting field in some races. The reason, in my opinion, is money.

Sponsors are becoming harder to find, particularly for less successful teams without big name drivers, and without the sponsorships, owner/drivers cannot compete. No one individual can afford to finance the operation of a competitive team on the money won on anything but the top ten positions.

Recently NASCAR announced that they would be trying a new rule, one that should cut the cost of racing significantly. Their plan is to limit the teams to one engine for practice, qualifying and the race. No more specialized engines for qualifying, then changing to another engine for the race itself. It almost goes back to the "run what you bring" theory. If you bring an engine to the track, that's the one you race with.

(Cont. to A-9)



The Rockcastle High School Rocket varsity basketball team is four and two this season after three straight wins. Their latest victim was Oneida Baptist Institute at home on Tuesday night. The Rockets will play in the Holiday Classic at McCleary Central High School beginning Thursday night. They will take on Pulaski Southwestern at 9 p.m. and will play on Friday and Saturday as well. The 2001-2002 squad is shown above, front row, from left: sophomore Devin Taylor, senior Cory Reams, senior Andrew Hammond, senior Chris Childress and junior Chris Settles. Back row, from left: freshman Aaron Cash, junior Darrin Harris, sophomore James Isaacs, junior Aaron Anderkin, sophomore Anthony Stevens, junior Stephen Boring, junior Jason Reynolds and junior Austin Miller. Following the McCleary Central tournament, the Rockets will go to Berea, where they will play in their invitational tournament. The day after Christmas the Rockets will take on Berea at 9:30 a.m. They could play as many as four days in a row in that tournament before stepping back into district play on January 4th when they will take on Clay County again at home.



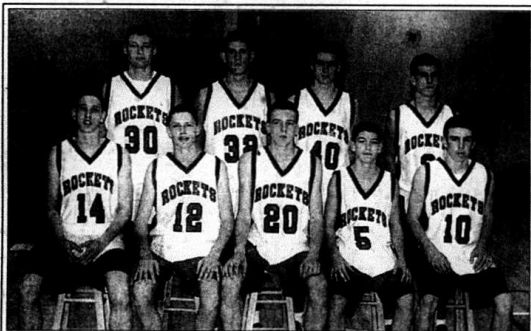
The Rockcastle County varsity Lady Rockets are three and three this season, and will play in the Queen of the Smokies Invitational Gatlinburg this weekend. They will host their annual Lady Rocket Holiday Hoopla December 26-29. Members of this year squad are shown above, front row, from left: Katie Parsons, Lauren Clontz, manager Laura Beth Bell, Amber Denney, Brianna Bussell and Ashley Mink. Back row, from left: Ashley Lunsford, Holly Ann Colson, Tara Rowe, Heather Hammond, Stephanie Price, Jessie Hayes, Amy Barnett, Johanna Abney and Christine Abney.



Members of the Lady Rocket junior varsity team are shown above, front row, from left: Anna Guilfoil, Katie Parsons, Allie Mink, Sarah Parsons, Lauren Clontz and Stephanie Price. Back row, from left: Ashley Kimbrell, Doris Bismark, Holly Ann Colson, Ashley Lunsford, Ashley Bell, Leigh Ann Caldwell and Ashley Mize.



Members of the Lady Rocket freshmen team are shown above, front row, from left: Ashley Kimbrell, Sarah Parsons, Allie Mink, Ashley Bell, Leigh Ann Caldwell and Holly Ann Colson. Back row, from left: Ashley Mize, Heather Hopkins, Ashley Lunsford, Krystal Farthing, Ainsley Bussell, Lara Cash and Jessica Asher.



Members of the Rockcastle County boys' junior varsity team are shown above front row, from left: Jesse Hammi, Ronny Lee McClure, Elijah Lunsford, Brandon Cameron and Derrick Hurst. Back row, from left: Blake Roberts, James Isaacs, Darren Harris and Devin Taylor.



Members of the Rockcastle County High School boys' freshman are shown above, front row, from left: Josh Prewitt, Ronny Lee McClure, Phillip Boring and Derrick Hurst. Back row, from left: Tim Albright, Blake Roberts, Justin Taylor and Matthew Alyn.