

THE ROCKET

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Rockcastle County High School

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Sophomore part of Olympic Torch Relay

BY COURTNEY ALEXANDER

The Salt Lake 2002 Torch Relay is well underway, and as the famous torch passed through the Kentucky State Capital on Monday Dec. 17 RCHS sophomore Jamie Ornela was running along side it.

Serving as a support runner, Jamie had the honor of accompanying the actual torchbearer on their 2 mile trek and was to assume the responsibility should something happen to the torchbearer.

Jamie's brother nominated her for this honor on the Coca-Cola website, which is the official sponsor of the Olympic Torch Relay. After completing a thorough application process and a physical examination, Jamie was selected as an official support runner.

Unfortunately, Jamie's hectic schedule left her little time to prepare for this event, but she was confident in her ability to fulfill her duties.

"I'm so happy I got to do this and I love Coke," Jamie stated still unable to believe what she had been a part of.

The famous torch is still on its way to Salt Lake City, set to arrive just in time for the Opening Ceremony on February 8, 2002.

Rockets take state runner up title

BY MARIE COLLINS

On December 1 the Rockcastle County Rockets played on the carpet at Cardinal Stadium in Louisville, Kentucky for the first time ever, losing to Boyle County 49-14.

After failing to score in the first, second, or third quarter, junior running back Marty Reagan made it into the endzone in the fourth.

Reagan gives his linemen the credit for his touchdown.

"It felt great getting a touchdown on the same field where all the 'greats' have played but most people don't realize that it was my linemen (including Adam Childress, William Blair, Michael Brummett and Jason Leger) who got me there," said Reagan.

The next and final touchdown for the ROCK came only minutes later from senior running back Josh Hale, who also gives the credit to his teammates.

"It was one of the biggest honors of my life (scoring on the carpet), however, like everything else we did this year, we did it as a team," said Hale.

This year's seniors will be ending their high school careers with a perfect regular season, a district championship, a regional championship, and a state runners up title.



photo by Courtney Alexander

RCHS quarterback Aaron Anderkin gives senior wide-receiver Josh Hale a shoulder to lean on after a hard fought battle for the State 3A Championship on Dec. 1. Hale and Anderkin were the last to leave the carpet. The Rockets lost the game to Boyle County by a margin of 49-14.

"I enjoyed the success, but to me there is no complacency in second place," said Hale.

After the game, the team traveled back to Rockcastle and were met by the Mt. Vernon fire and police departments. They were then escorted around the city of Mt. Vernon and on to their home field

where Principal John Hale congratulated the team on their 14-1 season.

Mayor Karen King presented them with the key to the city.

Head Coach Tom Larkey and head assistant defensive coordinator Tony Saylor spoke to the crowd of approximately 100.

"We have no reason to be sad. We're the state runners up!" said Coach Larkey.

Coach Saylor credited much of the team's success to the parents, the quarterback club, and the fans.

"I'm sure your hearts and wallets will welcome us again next year," he joked.

New engineering class part of national program, exposes students to career field

BY JAMIE ORNELA

When scheduling starts in February, there is a new elective to bubble in for next year. Introduction to Engineering Design is the first of five new engineering classes to be introduced into the curriculum.

The classes are part of Project Lead the Way, a program designed to attract more students to the engineering field.

Placing Rockcastle in a category with five other Kentucky schools, RCHS will gradually implement this nation-wide program consisting of five training courses over the next five years.

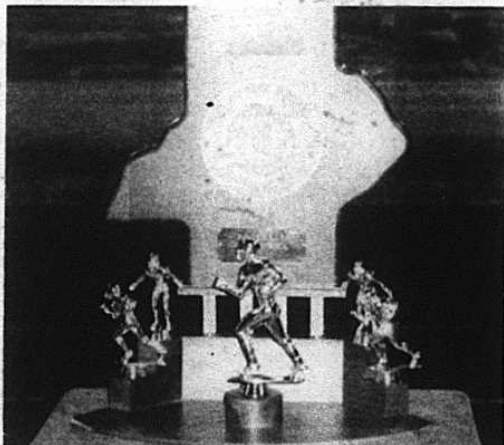
The other four classes will be implemented later: Digital Electronics, Principles of Engineering, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, and Engineering Design and Development.

"Project Lead the Way is intended not only to raise math and science scores, but to help students enter engineering at the college level," said technology teacher Pat Greene.

The program was reviewed by Mr. Greene and Principal John Hale after being brought in front of the SBDM Council by the county office.

The class, which will only be made up of twenty-four students, will focus on designing projects with the computer and then creating their design. Being self-paced, the students will be able to work within their own individual time frame. But with the addition of these new classes, some old ones will have to be dropped. Overview of Technological Systems and Drafting Systems will be dropped from the schedule.

Project Lead the Way offers an extensive website that has helpful information for both students and parents. It can be found at <www.pltw.org>.



Rockcastle's State Runner-Up trophy.