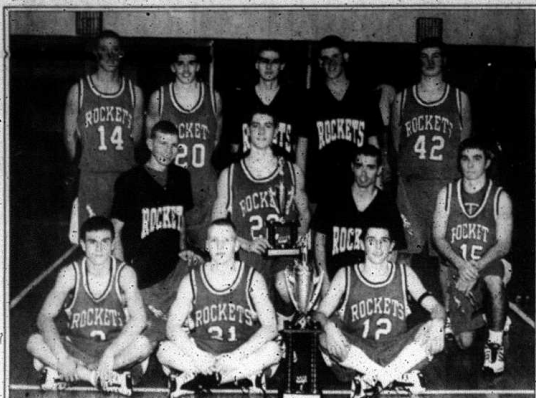
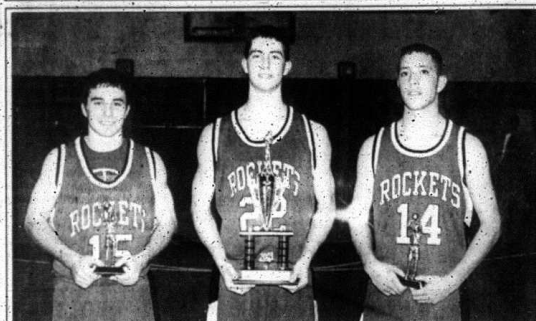




The Rockcastle Rockets won the Arby's KFC Holiday Classic at McCreary Central and placed third at the Berea Invitational over the holidays. Members of the team are pictured above. Front row from left: Devin Taylor, Chris Settles and Austin Miller. Second row from left: Cory Reams, Andrew Hammond, Chris Childress and Aaron Cash. Back row from left: Aaron Anderkin, Jason Reynolds, Darrin Harris, James Hayes and Stephen Boreing.



Aaron Cash, Andrew Hammond and Aaron Anderkin were all named to the All-Tournament team of the Arby's KFC Holiday Classic at McCreary Central. Hammond was also named tournament MVP. Anderkin and Cash were also named to the all-tournament team of the Berea Invitational.

Rockets win at McCreary to take first place in tourney, place third at Berea

The Rockets' basketball team acquitted themselves well in their two holiday tournaments, winning at McCreary Central and placing third out of 16 teams at Berea.

The boys' first game at McCreary Central was against the Southwestern Warriors and the Rockets came out on top 65-59. Facing a one-point deficit at the half, 36-35, the Rockets came back to outscore the Warriors 30-23 in the second half. Aaron Cash led the scoring for his team with 22 points, followed closely by Andrew Hammond with 21. Aaron Anderkin got 11, Jason Reynolds scored 9, Austin Miller and Chris Settles got 2 each and Stephen Boreing 1.

In their next game, the Rockets defeated Whitley County 57-47. This time, Hammond got high point honors with 15. Cash had 14, Anderkin 13, Miller 5 and Reynolds, Boreing, Settles, Devin Taylor and James Isaacs, 2 each.

The Rockets were up by 10 at the half 38-28 in the championship game against McCreary Central, but the Raiders came roaring back in the second half to outscore the Rockets 32-26 primarily behind 10 for 14 free throw shooting as opposed to the Rockets 2 for 4.

Jason Reynolds led the scoring for the Rockets in the game with 23 points. Hammond got 17, Miller 12, Cash 8 and Anderkin and Settles, 2 each.

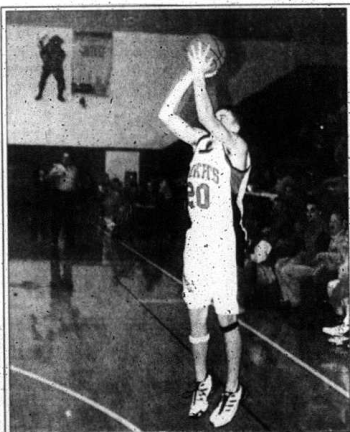
Andrew Hammond was named MVP for the tournament and Aaron Cash and Aaron Anderkin were named to the all-tournament team.

The Rockets played four games in the Berea Invitational and won three of them to place third out of sixteen teams.

In the first game of the tournament, the Rockets easily handled the Berea Pirates 71-46.

Hammond led the scoring for his team with 21 points; Cash got 19;

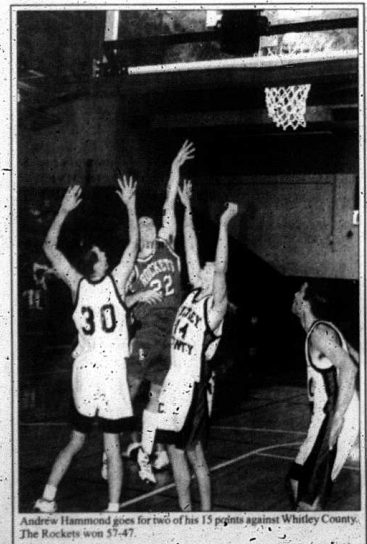
Anderkin 13; Miller 6; Settles 5; Taylor 3 and Boreing and Isaacs 2 each. (Cont. to A-7)



Jason Reynolds makes a three pointer in Rocket action.



Stephen Boreing grabs a rebound in the Rockets 65-59 win over Southwestern Pulaski.



Andrew Hammond goes for two of his 15 points against Whitley County. The Rockets won 57-47.



The Rockcastle County Lady Rockets had a successful holiday break winning the Queen of the Smokies Invitational at Gatlinburg and their own Holiday Hoopla tourney at RCHS. Members of the team are pictured above. Front row from left: Ashley Mink, Brianna Bussell, Stephanie Price and Joanna Abney. Back row from left: Amber Denney, Katie Parsons, Lauren Clontz, Heather Hammond, Tara Rowe, Ashley Lunsford, Amy Barnett and Jessie Hays.

Lady Rockets win Tennessee and Holiday Hoopla Tourneys

The Queen of the Smokies Tournament title belongs to the Rockcastle County Lady Rockets, after they successfully defeated three teams enroute to the title.

In their first game, the Rockets beat the Knoxville West Lady Rebels 62-50 with balanced scoring. Ashley Mink led in scoring with 16. Tara Rowe had 11, Heather Hammond 10, Amber Denney 9, Jessie Hays 6, Amy Barnett 5, Brianna Bussell and Ashley Mink 2 each and Lauren Clontz 1.

The second game of the tournament was a breeze for the Rockets as they handily defeated the Belfrey Lady Pirates 74-38. Elvyn Rogers scored in the game led by Rowe with 17. Others scoring were Hays 12, Hammond 10, Clontz 8, Abney 7, Denney 6, Mink and Bussell 4 each and Katie Parsons, Amy Barnett and Hollyanne Colson, 2 each.

In the championship game against the Gatlinburg-Pittman Lady High-

landers, the Rockets were led by Abney with 17 in the 62-52 win. Rowe had 13 points, Hays 9, Barnett 7, Denney 6, Hammond and Mink 4 each and Bussell 2.

The Rockets' Holiday Hoopla Tournament is a Round Robin venue and the tournament actually wound up in a three-way tie for first place.

The Rockets got beat in the final game by Bell Co. 58-56 but, since they had beaten Casey earlier and Casey had beaten Bell, the Rockets wound up with the championship trophy. Casey was second and Bell third.

The first game of the tournament for the Rockets saw them easily defeat Casey Co. 65-49 with Heather

Hammond taking high point honors for her team with 14. Abney got 11, Clontz 10, Rowe 9, Mink 8, Denney

and Hays 6 each and Stephanie Price

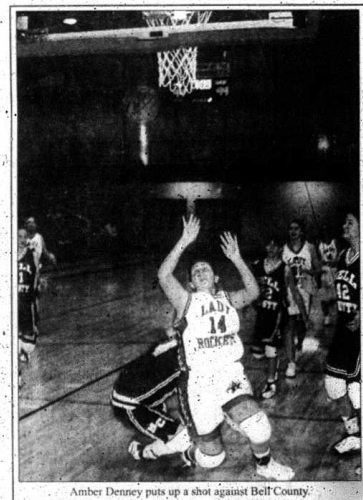
The Mayfield Lady Cardinals were the next team on the agenda for the Rockets and they were dispatched 54-44. Abney led her team in scoring with 14, Hammond got 10, Denney 8, Rowe 7, Mink 5, Hays 4, Barnett 3, Bussell 2 and Clontz 1.

In the final game of the tournament, the Rockets met the Bell County Lady Bobcats and after leading 37-26 at the half, played a dismal second half to lose 58-56.

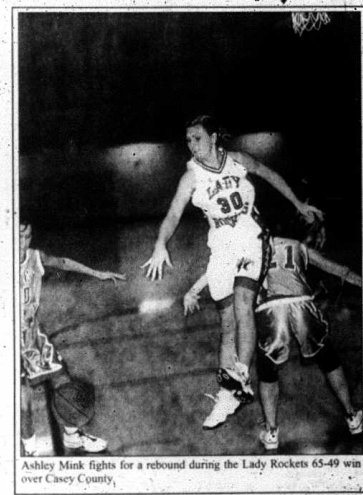
Hammond led the scoring for the Rockets with 12, Rowe got 10, Denney 9, Hays and Denney 8 each, Mink 6 and Barnett 3.

This Friday night, the girls will host a rematch with the Clay County Lady Tigers in a doubleheader with the Rockets boys team.

Photos By
Richard
Anderkin



Amber Denney puts up a shot against Bell County.



Ashley Mink fights for a rebound during the Lady Rockets 65-49 win over Casey County.