



The RCMS 6th Grade Rockets have posted an impressive 14-3 record this season under the direction of head coach Chris Hendrickson. Members are pictured front row left to right: J.J. Barnett, Jay Cobb, Devin Hasty, Chris Carpenter, Dustin Poynter, Chris Lewis, Abe Kirby, Brady Lear, Second row left to right: Seth Taylor, Nathan Mullins, Kyle Lear, Cody Smith, Gary Caldwell, Brian Mize, Jake Woodall, head coach Chris Hendrickson.



The Rockcastle County 7th grade team have posted a 9-10 mark this season. They will begin conference tournament play in Wayne County on Saturday. Members of the team are pictured front row left to right: Manager Anthony Cook, Lynn Miracle, Steven Everole, Paul Payne, City Childress, Second row: Dustin Miller, Chandler Hunter, Jacob Harding, Lance Baldwin, Izak McQuerry, and Brandon Barnes.



The Rockcastle County Middle School Eighth Grade boy's basketball team defeated North Laurel in the first round of the conference tournament. Their next opponent is South Laurel in the second round. Members of the team are pictured front row left to right: Anthony Cook, Justin Albright, Weston Riddle, J.C. McClure, Colby Brown, Kyle Mullins. Second row: Gabe Stallworth, Jeremy Cook, Jared Brown, Derek McClure, Ty Bottoms, Derrick Adams.

"Racing"

(Cont. from A-8)

contract with Ray Evernham. At age 46, Elliott has gotten older but smarter. When asked about retirement, he said, "Neither Ray or myself are going to take chances. Like I said, you've just got to believe in yourself. If I ever reach a point in life that I don't believe in myself to win, we'll have to set down and talk. But right now, I'm looking forward to another win."

Busch Series wide open

One of the big questions will be who is favored to win this year's Busch Series crown. With the departure of Kevin Harvick, the defending champion, and Jeff Green, two-time champ, it's anybody's guess who might emerge as the top driver.

Jason Keller, the number three finisher last season has the experience, but is his team capable of handling the pressure of running up week after week?

Greg Biffle, the 2000 NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series champion had five wins last season for Jack Roush. But he also had four DNFs. If he is able to control his temper on the track and maintain consistency, then he could be near the front of the pack.

There are several others, including Tony Rains, Elton Sawyer and Mike McLaughlin, that could be leading come November.

Truck Champion

Jack Sprague is out

After winning three NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series championships, Jack Sprague, driver of Rick Hendrick's No. 24 Chevrolet has bid farewell to the trucks.

Sprague was the only driver to have started all 170 races in the series' history. But with the announcement that Hendrick Motorsports was shifting its focus from the trucks to Busch cars, Sprague no longer had a job.

All indications are that Jack Roush's driver, Travis Kvapil will be a frontrunner for the 2002 title. But Ted Musgrave, who finished second in 2001 will also be a contender.

Joe Ruttman, the oldest driver on the circuit, and who was also named Most Popular Driver will be one of the favorites.

Rick Crawford, who finished eighth in the final season points is also planning a championship run. Crawford, who drives the No. 14

Milwaukee Tools Ford switched engine builders during midseason and had an outstanding second half. If the first half of his season had equaled the second, he would have been near the leaders in points.

Nascar Points System

The NASCAR Winston-Cup and Busch Series have used several points systems since the inception of NASCAR in 1949. The current system has been in place since 1975.

Finishing Positions: The top-five finishers are rewarded with a five-point separation between themselves and the next-highest finisher. Positions six through 10 are awarded a four-point separation. From 11th on back to the end of the field there is a three-point separation, no matter how many cars finish the race.

Bonus Points: A driver can receive five bonus points if he leads a lap, and another five points if he leads the most laps. If two or more drivers tie for most laps lead, each driver receives five points.

Points Awarded To: Points are awarded to the starting driver of each race, regardless of who is driving at the finish. The starting driver must complete at least one green flag lap. (The maximum number of points a driver can accumulate in a single race is 185.)

Weekend Racing Schedule: Sunday, Feb. 10: ARCA RE/MAX Daytona 200; IN: Speed Channel (formerly Speedvision). Starting time: 11 a.m. (EST). NASCAR Winston Cup Budweiser Shootout (non-points race); Starting time: 1 p.m. (EST); TV: TNT.

Daytona track facts: Size: 2.5 mile oval; Banking in turns: 31 degrees; trioval: 18 degrees; backstretch: 3 degrees; Length of frontstretch: 3,800 feet; backstretch: 3,400 feet;

Grandstand capacity: 175,000. Date opened: February 22, 1959.

SOUND OFF: If you have an opinion about NASCAR or Sunday's Winston Cup racing and want to be heard, call us within one hour after the end of the race at 1-800-726-7022. The call is free, and if we use your comments in our next column, we will send you a photo of your favorite driver.

"Rockets"

(Cont. from A-8)

ets back up 39:35. Hammonds got back-to-back goals and Settles added a basket to give their team a 45-37 third quarter lead.

Anderson, who didn't score in the second and third periods, put in 8 points in the fourth quarter. Settles got one three point basket and was 6 for 6 at the free throw line for 9 points to give the Rockets their 17th win of the season against 5 losses.

The Rockets fared much better at the free throw line in this game, going 19 for 25 total and 16 for 18 in the fourth quarter.

Besides Settles' 19 points, Anderson got 17; Hammond 14; Cash 13; Taylor 5; Austin Miller 3 and Stephen Boring 2.

The Rockets are now 5-1 in district play, their only loss coming at Jackson Co. early in the season. Jackson County is 4-1 with Clay remaining on their district schedule and Clay is 2 and 3. If Jackson Co. beats Clay Co. then a coin toss will determine the first seed in the district tournament.

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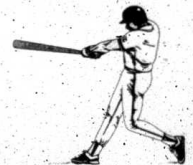
Evening and weekend appointments available

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Hey Kids!



Rockcastle County Little League BASEBALL SIGN-UPS

Sat., Feb. 9th: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mt. Vernon Elementary

Sat., Feb. 16th: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Brodhead Elementary

Ages: Kids age 5-12 by August 1st

Cost: \$10 first child

Forms may also be turned into John Saylor at Rite-Aid from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday thru February 22nd

NO BIRTH CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED AT TIME OF SIGN-UP



**For more info.
contact John Saylor
at 758-8812**



TIME FOR A CHANGE

One man can make a difference
and that
one man is Gary Linville.

With your vote and support when elected Sheriff of Rockcastle County in May 2002, with God's help we will give new meaning to **Protect and Serve** in the Rockcastle Co. Sheriff's Dept.

With more than 15 years in leadership as a Gospel Minister, Pastor, Teacher and Businessman; owning and operating four businesses, one of which was Lake Linville Boat Dock and Campgrounds for seven years. Presently employed as manager of Near II Auto Center in Berea.

In teaching, also setting the example for years in leadership:

We understand what real leadership is - qualities and virtues like integrity, honesty, commitment and reliability, just to name a few.

With a crystal clear record for more than 20 years and working with youth groups and D.A.R.E. reaching out to kids in Rockcastle and Madison Counties.

When you elect me as your new Sheriff in May 2002, after I take office with the help of several qualified and trained deputies, our pledge to you will be to protect and serve and that we will do By the people and for the people.

Watch for future ads in the Mt. Vernon Signal and don't forget it's time for a change!!

VOTE GARY LINVILLE - SHERIFF - MAY 2002.

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Photo by Gary Linville