

RCHS girls beat SW Pulaski and Monticello Trojans

The Lady Rockets basketball team ran their season record to 17 and 8 in back-to-back wins over Southwest Pulaski and Monticello.

Against Southwest Pulaski Monday night, the girls took an early 12-9 first quarter lead and never looked back, winning 64-52 over the 14 and 9 Lady Warblers.

Jessie Hayes, Tara Rowe, and Ashley Mink tied for scoring honors for their team with 13 each. Johnna Abney had 11. Amber Denney 10 and Lauren Clontz 9.

As the "Warm-Up game" Tuesday night at home, the girls struggled with a weak Monticello team, leading at

times by as much as 11 but letting the Lady Trojans back into the game several times.

The Rockets were ahead 18-11 at the end of the first quarter and were up 26-20 at half time. The Rockets, ahead 35-27 at the end of the third quarter, were outscored 16-12 by the Trojans 16-12 in the final period but managed to hang on for the 47-43 win.

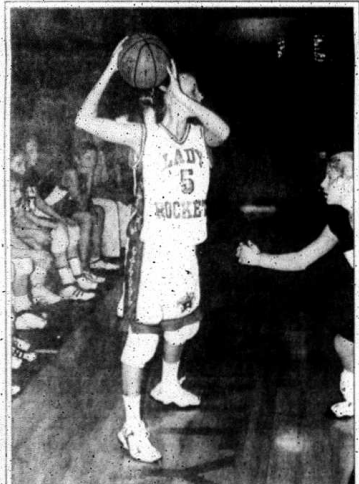
Denney led the scoring with 14 points; Rowe got 9; Heather Hammond, 8; Abney and Mink 5 each; Hayes 4 and Amy Barnett and Lauren Clontz 2 each.



Austin Miller applies defense to a Monticello player in the Rockets easy 57-33 win Tuesday night. The win gave the Rockets their 20th win of the season. It's the first 20 win regular season in RCHS history. Also in the photo are Aaron Cash, Andrew Hammond and Jason Reynolds.



Senior Amber Denney works her way to the basket in the Lady Rockets 47-43 win over Monticello Tuesday night. Denney led the scoring with 14 points. Also in the photo is 330 Ashley Mink.



Jessie Hayes looks over the floor in the Lady Rockets win over Monticello Tuesday night.

Rockets beat Trojans and Briarjumpers

The Rockcastle County Rockets basketball team set a school record for most wins in a regular season with a 57-33 win over visiting Monticello on Tuesday night.

It was the first time ever the Rockets have won 20 games during the regular season, in thirty seasons at RCHS.

The Rockets used a 20 point first quarter to take a 13 point lead into the second quarter and never looked back.

Junior forward Aaron Anderkin, had 12 of 14 points in the first period after hitting his first four shots of the game, all three point attempts.

After that the Rockets padded their lead in each quarter, as senior Andrew Hammond led the scoring with 15 points.

Junior Jason Reynolds added 12, freshman Aaron Cash had nine, Stephen Boring had two, Chris Settles two, Coby Reams two and Devin Taylor one.

It was senior night at the ROCK. Seniors Chris Childress, Reams and Hammond were honored, along with other seniors between games.

On Saturday night, the Rockets

won their 19th game of the season with a 68-61 overtime win over Somerset.

Junior Jason Reynolds nailed a three pointer with three seconds left to tie the game at 60 and send it into overtime.

The Briarjumpers, who have won 20 games this season and are ranked number two in the 12th region, led most of the game, but had no answer for the Rockets in overtime.

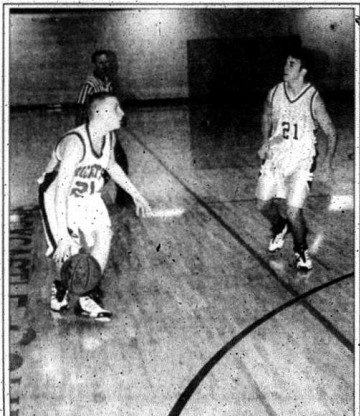
The Rockets put up eight points to one for the Briarjumpers, taking a 68-61 victory.

Andrew Hammond and Aaron Cash each had 19 points. Jason Reynolds had 12, Anderkin and Taylor five each, Boring four, Settles three and Austin Miller one.

The Rockets will host McCreary Central on Friday night and head into district play on Monday night at Clay County.

The Rockets are the top seed in the district and will play Oneida in the second game on Monday night.

The Lady Rockets will play Clay County on Tuesday night in district play.



Chris Settles and the rest of the Rockets picked up their 19th win of the season Saturday night with a 68-61 overtime win over Somerset. The Briarjumpers are ranked second in the 12th region.



James Isaac shoots a free throw for the Jayvee Rockets in their loss to Somerset last Saturday night. Also in the photo is #10 Derrick Hurst.

The Racing Reporter

By Gerald Hodges
The Racing Reporter

Ward Burton wins 44th Daytona 500 in a Dodge

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. "I didn't know if we were going to win, but I knew we had a helluva chance," said Ward Burton in Victory Lane after winning Sunday's Daytona 500.

Burton, driver of the No. 22 Cat Dodge only led three green flag laps, and those were the ones that mattered the last three.

"I wasn't looking at the checkered flag when I went by it," continued Burton. "I didn't back off the gas until I saw the other's slack up."

What set up a three-lap shootout to the finish started on a restart during lap 195 of the 200-lap race. Jeff Gordon was the leader, followed by Sterling Marlin and Burton.

Right after the leaders cleared the green flag, a multi-car pileup began in the middle of the field. Marlin, in the meantime had gotten a run on leader, Gordon, and attempted to pass underneath. Gordon came down, attempting to block Marlin's car, and the left side of Marlin's No. 40 Cors Dodge went below the yellow line.

Gordon slid down into the infield grass, while Marlin and the rest of the field continued to race back around.

"It was my fault," said Gordon. "Sterling had a run on me, and I tried to block him."

About the time Marlin and Gordon tangled, NASCAR officials showed a yellow flag because of the accident that had happened farther back in the field of cars.

Marlin was the new leader as the cars came back around, but NASCAR showed a red flag, stopping the race.

With the cars stopped on the backstretch, Marlin crawled out of his car, and went around to the right front and started pulling the fender away from the tire.

When the race resumed, NASCAR officials penalized Marlin for working on his car during the red flag, and sent him to the rear of the field.

When Sterling went to pit road, Ward Burton, the older of the two Burton Brothers took over the lead, and went on to his first Daytona win in eight tries.

During pre-season testing they talked about Chevrolet being fast, how Ford garnered the most attention, but it was Dodge that won the spoiler game.

Tony Stewart, one of the pre-race favorites lost an engine on lap 20, and wound up 43rd. "Something happened to the motor. I just don't know what happened. It kind of died on the start a little bit, then as the lap went on it kind of died even more."

"I'm glad I didn't cause a wreck trying to get off the track. The hard part was that it kind of died going into the banking and there was nowhere to really go, other than around the bottom of the track. I'm glad everybody got by us clean."

Dale Earnhardt Jr., who cut a tire and was involved in two more accidents, came in 29th.

A massive accident on lap 149 in turn one claimed 17 cars, and turned the turns one and two into a scarp yard.

Ken Schrader, Michael Waltrip, and Matt Kenseth were the early race leaders. Waltrip got behind in the middle of the race because of a 22-second plus pit stop, and Schrader damaged the side of his car.

The last time a Dodge visited Victory Lane at Daytona was when Ri-

chard Petty won the 1974 Daytona 500.

Finishing order: 1. Ward Burton, 2. Elliott Sadler, 3. Geoffrey Bodine, 4. Kurt Busch, 5. Michael Waltrip, 6. Mark Martin, 7. Ryan Newman, 8. Sterling Marlin, 9. Jeff Gordon, 10. Johnny Benson, 11. Bill Elliott, 12. Jeff Burton, 13. Bobby Gordon, 14. Dale Jarrett, 15. Jimmie Johnson, 16. Brett Bodine, 17. Ricky Craven, 18. Rusty Wallace, 19. Jeff Green, 20. Terry Labonte, 21. Mike Wallace, 22. Robert Pressley, 23. Mike Skinner, 24. Shawna Robinson, 25. Dave Blaney, 26. Ken Schrader, 27. Stacy Compton, 28. Jerry Nadeau, 29. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 30. Kenny Wallace, 31. Todd Bodine, 32. Bobby Hamilton, 33. Matt Kenseth, 34. Bobby Labonte, 35. Casey Atwood, 36. Kevin Harvick, 37. John Andretti, 38. Rocky Rudd, 39. Jeremy Mayfield, 40. Joe Nemechek, 41. Kyle Petty, 42. Dave Marcis, 43. Tony Stewart.

Top-10 Winston Cup points leaders after 36 events: 1. W. Burton, 180, 2. Sadler, 170, 3. G. Bodine, 165, 4. Busch, 165, 5. Waltrip, 160, 6. Martin, 152, 7. Marlin, 150, 8. Newman, 146, 9. J. Gordon, 143, 10. Benson, 134.

Fan soundtrack about Sunday's Daytona

R.C., Monticello, Kentucky "Ford and Dodges had advantage. Officials missed it on call about yellow line."

C.W. Goodyear, Arizona: "What happened between Gordon and Marlin was just racing. Congrats to NASCAR for giving Ford a chance."

B.B., Four Oaks, NC: "It's been a year of memorials to Dale Sr. Sorry he was killed, but we've got to move on with racing."

C.R., Charlotte, Michigan: "Proud to be a NASCAR fan. Proud to be an American. Sorry, Dale Jr. didn't win."

P.N., Bolton, North Carolina: "NASCAR shafted Marlin. Going to be very interesting to see what happens with all the NASCAR rule changes."

S.B., Monticello, Kentucky: "Wasn't a caution when Sterling went under yellow. Need to calm drivers down in races when they do the things they do."

J.L., Louisville, New York: "Both Gordon and Marlin were good natured about what happened."

After 32 years Dave Marcis hangs it up

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—Veteran driver Dave Marcis, who retired following Sunday's Daytona 500, was the recipient of several surprise gifts during a "retirement party" at the Balm Plaza Hotel in Daytona Beach.

The 61-year-old Wausau, Wisconsin native's first Winston Cup start was in the 1968 Daytona 500. Since then, he has run in 886 races, and won four.

events, (Martinsville '75, Atlanta '76, Richmond '76, Talladega '76). His best points finish was 1975, when he finished second to Richard Petty.

From his Winston Cup sponsor, Keadler, Marcis received a check for \$50,000 as well as the party. He also contributed to the restoration of Marcis' car used in his first Daytona 500 in 1968.

Among the other gifts Marcis received: two Rolex watches from the International Race of Champions series; a fishing boat from Bass Pro Shops; a four-wheeler from Kawasaki; a camouflage golf cart from EZ-GO; fly-fishing equipment from Dodge owner Ray Everham.

(Cont. to A9)

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