

With season winding down, tournament awaits Rockets, Lady Rockets

BY BRIAN REYNOLDS

While time on the Rockets and Lady Rockets season is winding down, there is always one question lingering in everyone's mind. How far will they go in district and regional play?

"As good as we've been playing, it's not going to be easy getting into the regional tournament due to the fact that 3 out of the top 6 teams are in our district," said Coach Clayton Cash, referring to Clay, Jackson and Rockcastle County.

The boys basketball team has a successful season so far with a 17-5 record, including two wins against Clay County (the first in school history), and a win over Jackson County 73-59 to claim the first seed in the district tournament.

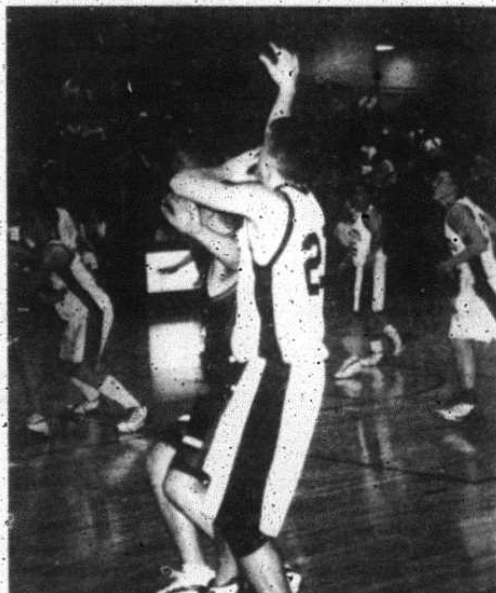
"The team has played better than expectations at this point," said Cash.

The Rockets will face Oneida Baptist in the first round of the district tournament Monday, February 25.

The Lady Rockets have played an exceptional season, as well, with a 13-8 record and a near upset of the All A state champions-Jackson County 64-60 here at Rockcastle.

"We've played right at expectations," said head coach Christy Noble. "We've beat teams we shouldn't have, and we've got beat by teams we should have."

In the district tournament the Lady Rockets will be facing the Clay County Tigers, who will be playing on their home court. Game



Junior shooting forward Jason Reynolds scored 7 points in the victory against Jackson County. (photo by Jessica Thacker)

time is 6:00 Tuesday, February 26. The Tigers have defeated the Lady Rockets twice this season, once by a last second shot.

If the Lady Rockets make it to regionals they will be playing at home.

"Playing in the region tournament, which is on RCHS's home

floor has been a goal for us all year as a team," added Noble.

Before district play can begin, both teams must wrap up regular season play which will end Friday, February 22 when the boys meet McCreary at home. The Lady Rockets will end their season at Middlesboro.

Seasons beginning for baseball, softball

BY JESSICA THACKER

Play ball!

The smell of hot dogs and nachos and the sound of the bat meeting the ball will soon be in the air as spring sports at the Rock start up once more.

Conditioning for both teams started at the first of February and tryouts were held on February 15. Practice will start as soon as tryouts are over because the teams are ready to begin their seasons.

"If it is dry outside, we will be out there," head baseball coach JD Bussell said, when asked about their conditioning plans.

He is ready for his team to work hard and he expects them to be ready to give it their all.

Both teams have numerous games and tournaments planned for this season. Softball has four games scheduled most weeks, and then some Saturdays the team will be traveling for tournaments.

"Last year we had three players graduate, so I believe that the team should be able to make it back to where it was last year at the regional tournaments," stated head softball coach Clay Dollins.

Indoor track team looking ahead to Mason-Dixon games

BY ANDREA LESTER

The indoor track team is working hard to prepare themselves for upcoming meets, including the UK Invitational and the Mason Dixon Games.

"Six girls graduated last season. The task of finishing state runner-up or better for the third year in a row is much more difficult now," said coach Mark Brummett. "Several all-state competitors did return for the girls team."

Four members competed at the University of Kentucky's invitational meet Saturday. Results were not available at press time.

Senior Clarissa Hubbard participated in shot put and freshman Chere Embs competed in the triple jump. Freshman Heather Hammond was scheduled to com-

pete in three events: high jump, long jump, and the 400 meter dash. Eighth grader Kayla Hayes was also to compete in the one mile run.

Hubbard and Hammond were both named all-state last year, in addition to sophomore Sheena Swinney, who was short of qualifying for the UK meet.

Seniors Josh Hale and Josh Taylor returned for the boys team. Hale runs the 55 meter dash and the 400 meter dash. Taylor isn't currently competing due to a knee injury, but would normally be in the 60 meter dash, 400 meter relay, and the 800 meter relay.

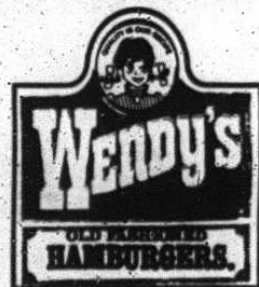
The track team will compete in the Mason-Dixon games for the Class AA-Indoor State Championship Saturday, February 23.

Good Luck, Rockets!

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