

Josh Hale wins Indoor State Title

The Rockcastle County High School track and field team recently competed in the 42nd Annual Mason-Dixon Games Indoor Class 2A High School State Track and Field Championships held in Louisville's Broadbent Arena.

Over forty boys' and girls' teams were on hand for the competition.

The RCHS boys' team had an exceptional meet highlighted by many, outstanding performances. The boys finished in a tie for 14th overall out of a very talented group of teams and competitors, despite missing many key competitors from the team due to injuries and other sports obligations.

The most notable performance for RCHS was that of senior Josh Hale in the 400-meter dash. Josh has worked hard this indoor season to prepare himself for a run at the outdoor 400-meter state title and hoped to pick up the indoor state championship in the event along the way. Even with an excellent entry time, Josh faced the major challenge of running in the slower second heat. As difficult as this task may have seemed, it was not a problem for Josh. He began his heat in spectacular fashion and sprinted to an early lead. Josh easily pulled away from his competitors and cruised to victory in 53.96 seconds - more than three-tenths of a second ahead of his closest competitor. His performance compared favorably to the other heats and Josh won the state indoor title in the event. He also shattered the previous RCHS indoor record for the 400-meter dash.



Senior Josh Hale won the 400 meter dash indoor state title for Class 2A with a school record time of 53.96. He also finished sixth in the 55 meter dash.

vious RCHS indoor record for the event. Josh ran the 55-meter dash as well and placed 6th overall with an exceptional effort of 6.96 seconds.

The distance trio of freshman Bill Burdett, sophomore Andrew Nelson, and freshman Brandon Cole turned in some great performances in the distance events. Bill ran a great 800-meter run. He finished 25th overall with a stellar indoor time of 2:33.23. Andrew ran an awesome 1500-meter run. He finished a hard-fought race in 17th place overall with an effort of 4:54.75. Brandon also performed very well in the 3000-meter run with an 11th place finish in 10:26.65. Bill, Andrew, and Brandon teamed up with seventh grader Josh Blair for the 3200-meter relay. The group ran very well together and finished in 16th place with a time of 10:10.12. Both Andrew and Brandon were named to the all-state cross-country team this past season.

Sophomore newcomer Josh Hayes competed in his first-ever track meet in the long jump competition. Josh performed very well despite little practice in the event and finished in 21st place overall with a great effort of 13'10.52".

The RCHS girls' team sought their first-ever indoor state title after finishing as state runner-up the past two seasons. The girls also finished as outdoor state runner-up this past season as well. Despite being short-handed, the girls delivered many outstanding performances on their way to a 7th place finish overall. The majority of the girls' team was still involved in other sports and school activities at the time of the meet.



Freshman Cher' Emba finished as state runner-up in triple jump with a new RCHS indoor record of 33'4". She also placed fourth in the long jump.

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Sophomore Sheena Swinney and freshman Cher' Emba led the RCHS girls' with many outstanding performances. In the 55-meter dash, Sheena finished as state runner-up for the second season in a row. She blazed her way to an awesome time of 7.81 seconds. Sheena also had a spectacular performance in the 400-meter dash. She finished 3rd overall with a superb effort of 1:04.4. Sheena was named all-star last season in the 200-meter dash and the 1600-meter relay. She hopes to continue her success this outdoor season. Cher' Emba performed extremely well in the field events, particularly long jump and triple jump. In the long jump competition, Cher' finished in 4th place overall with an exceptional jump of 14' 4.25". Her triple jump performance was even better. Cher' remained close to her competition until her fourth and final attempt. She leaped an incredible 33'4", a new RCHS indoor record in the event. She finished as state runner-up, losing only to a competitor who finished four inches farther on her last attempt of the competition.

Sixth grader Morgan Thacker competed in her first-ever Mason-Dixon Games high school meet. She ran the grueling 800-meter run, an event she has only begun to practice. Morgan ran an awesome race and was the only middle school competitor to finish in the top twenty. She placed 20th overall with a personal best time of 3:05.01.

Eighth grader Kayla Hayes, an all-state competitor for the cross-country team, had the daunting task of running both the 1500 and 3000-meter runs. She performed superbly and finished the 1500 in 6th place overall with a new RCHS record time of 5:26.54. Kayla shattered the previous record by over thirty seconds. She also performed equally well in the 3000, finishing 7th overall with an awesome effort of 12:21.8, also a new RCHS record in the event.

Josh Hale recently signed a letter-of-intent to play football at Georgetown College. Looking on are: his father, John Hale, Georgetown assistant football coach Jack Ison, Rocket head coach Tom Larkey and head assistant Tony Saylor.



Eighth grader Kayla Hayes shattered the RCHS indoor records for both the 1500 and 3000 meter runs. She finished sixth in the 1500 and seventh in the 3000.



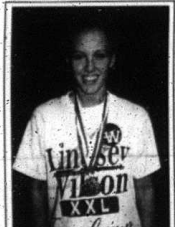
Sixth grader Morgan Thacker was the top middle school competitor in the 800 meter run and finished 20th overall.



Winners of the 2001-2002 Jr. Pro Training League regular season were the Raptors. They also were the tournament winners. They had an excellent record of 13 and 2. Members are pictured above, front row from left: Cody Ross, Marty Hammonds, Angie Lawrence, Alivia Bullock and Brandon Young. Back row from left: Kyle Messina, Tyler Howard, Kyle Hayes, Tanner Childress, Brandon Proctor and coach Teddy Lawrence. Not pictured was coach Steve Childress.



Josh Hale recently signed a letter-of-intent to play football at Georgetown College. Looking on are: his father, John Hale, Georgetown assistant football coach Jack Ison, Rocket head coach Tom Larkey and head assistant Tony Saylor.



Sophomore Sheena Swinney finished as state runner-up in the 55 meter dash. She also placed third in the 400 meter dash.



Andrew Nelson, Bill Burdett, Josh Blair and Brandon Cole placed 16th in the 3200 meter relay. The boys also did very well in individual events.

The Racing Reporter

By Gerald Hodges

The Racing Reporter

Busch gets his first Winston Cup Victory

BRISTOL, Vir.-This is what it's all about," shouted an emotional Kurt Busch in Victory Lane after winning

Sunday's Winston Cup Food City 500.

For the driver of Jack Roush's No. 97 Ford Taurus, it was his first Winston Cup victory in only his third Bristol start. He also became the fifth winning driver of the season.

Busch bumped Jimmy Spencer on lap 445 of the 500-lap race, and then

went 158 laps on his final set of tires.

"This is unreal, it's unbelievable, this is Victory Lane," said Busch. Jimmy Fenig, who had moved over from Mark Martin's team as crew chief at the beginning of the season, was ecstatic.

"He's the man," said Fenig. "I told everyone this kid was going to win some races. He just did, and it was awesome."

Busch took the lead during a restart on lap 415. On lap 445, Spencer bulldozed his way past Busch and into the lead. But Busch bumped Spencer's No. 41 Target Dodge to reclaim the lead on the next lap.

"He smashed into my bumper," said Spencer, who finished second. "I don't know how I was able to handle it. There's a right way and the wrong way to pass someone. And sometimes people that do it the wrong way have to learn the hard way."

There were three more cautions, but nobody was able to catch the 23-year-old Las Vegas, Nev. driver, who is now in his second full season of Winston Cup competition.

However, after the race Busch reminded everyone of what Spencer did to him in Las Vegas in 2001.

"Jimmy Spencer has apparently forgotten what he did to me at Las Vegas," said Busch. "It's not anything like what he did to me."

Dale Earnhardt Jr. and Robby Gordon also traded bumps after the race was over. Earnhardt Jr. said Robby Gordon had held him up during the race, and Gordon was mad because he felt Earnhardt had forced



Blake Parsons, son of Bill and Doty Parsons and a fourth grade student at Roundstone Elementary, recently competed in the nine and ten year old division of the Junior Olympics in Lincoln, Nebraska. He qualified for the National Olympics by winning the bronze medal at the Regionals in Detroit, Michigan. Blake is a member of the Rockcastle Co. Cross Country Team coached by Mark Brummett and Linda Howard.

(Cont. to A7)

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