

Boys ranked 10th

RGHS girls' track team ranked #1 in 2A

The RGHS track and field teams were well represented in the first KTCCHA Class 2A state rankings released April 13. The girls' team begins the season as the number one ranked team in the state in Class 2A. The girls' finished last season ranked number one before losing to Paducah Tilghman in the state championships. The girls' top ten rankings are as follows:

GIRLS SCORES - AA

Rank	School	Score
1	Rockcastle County	106.33
2	Boyle County	84
3	Mercer County	58.50
4	Paducah Tilghman	51
5	Fort Campbell	50
6	Fleming County	40.33
7	Cassy County	40
8	Lloyd Memorial	35
9	Newport	34.50
10	Russell	32.33

At the present, the top three teams in Class 2A are all from Region 4, the one in which Rockcastle competes. Many individuals were ranked in the top ten in the state including: Clarissa Hubbard - 2nd - 200-meter dash; Sheena Swinney - 1st - 100-meter dash; 1st - 200-meter dash; 3rd - 400-meter dash; Heather Hammond - 5th - 400-meter dash; 2nd - 300-meter hurdles; 2nd - high jump; 3rd - long jump; Johnna Abney - 5th - 100-meter dash; 7th - 200-meter dash; Cheré Embs - 5th - long jump; 2nd - triple jump; Tara Rowe - 6th - 300-meter hurdles; 10th - high jump; Kayla Hayes - 5th - 1600-meter run; 3rd - 3200-meter run; Jessica Asher - 8th - 1600-meter run; 7th - 3200-meter run; Johnna Abney, Cheré Embs, Sarah Parsons, Tara Rowe - 2nd - 400-meter relay; Johnna, Cheré, Sarah, Sheena Swinney - 6th - 800-meter relay; Jessica Asher, Morgan Kincer, Danielle Arnold, Kayla Hayes - 10th - 3200-meter relay.

The boys' team begins the season with quite possibly their highest ranking ever. According to the first KTCCHA poll, the RGHS boys are ranked 10th in the state in Class 2A. Although the number of competitors on the team are down this season, the quality of those competing is at a very high level. The boys' rankings are as follows:

BOYS SCORES - AA

Rank	School	Score
1	Fort Campbell	88.75
2	Paducah Tilghman	78.50
3	Boyle County	64.50
4	East Jessamine	63.75
5	Madison Southern	50.75
6	Mercer County	40.50
7	Prentissburg	39
8	West Jessamine	35
9	Marion County	33.75
10	Rockcastle County	29

Several RGHS boys are ranked in the top ten in their events. Josh Hale is ranked 2nd in the 400-meter dash. Andrew Nelson is ranked 5th in the 1600-meter run and 4th in the 3200-meter run. Brandon Cole is ranked 6th in the 1600-meter run and 3rd in the 3200-meter run. Andrew Hammond is ranked 4th in high jump.

The RGHS track and field teams recently competed in the Patriot Games hosted by Lincoln County High School. Twenty teams from around the state were on-hand for the annual competition. The meet itself took over six hours to complete.

The RGHS girls' team sought their third straight Patriot Games title, after the loss of six seniors from last year's state-runner-up team. Many of the top teams from the area were present including the second-ranked team in Class 3A - Lafayette and the top-ranked team in Class A - Danville.

The girls had many solid performances, despite appearing a little out of shape coming back from the spring break. In a tightly contested meet throughout, the girls held the defeat Lafayette by a score of 95-91 for their third straight Patriot Games title. Danville finished 3rd overall.

Freshman Heather Hammond led RGHS with many outstanding performances. Heather was the leading scorer in the entire meet, including all males and females, with 32 points. She narrowly missed winning the meet MVP award which was shared by a couple of other athletes with record-breaking meet performances.

In the 400-meter dash, Heather placed 3rd overall in 1:05.1. Immediately after the 400, Heather ran her first ever 300-meter hurdle race. She finished in spectacular fashion with an awesome time of 51.9 seconds and a 2nd place finish. In the high jump competition, the easily outdistanced her competitors and placed first with a jump of 5'0". Heather also placed 2nd in the 5' long jump competition with a leap of 15'4".

Senior Clarissa Hubbard easily had the most impressive single performance for an RGHS competitor. In the discus competition, Clarissa shattered her own RGHS record with an unbelievable effort of 122'. This was more than 7' better than her previous best. She was defeated only by last year's state champion from Casey County. Clarissa also threw well in the shot out competition. She finished 6th overall with a throw of 30'8.5". Senior teammate Doris Bismark finished well in her first competition ever. She placed 21st in shot put with a throw of 21'8.75". In the discus competition, Doris also threw very well and finished 11th with a throw of 69'.

Sophomore Sheena Swinney and freshman Johnna Abney competed in the 100 and 200-meter dashes. Both girls ran spectacular races in the 100. Sheena finished 2nd overall in 13.4 seconds, while Johnna placed 8th in 14.2 seconds. In the 200-meter dash, Sheena captured third with an exceptional time of 27.9 seconds. Johnna ran very well and placed 10th in 32.3 seconds. Sheena also ran the 400-meter dash and placed 9th overall in 1:07.

Freshman newcomer Tara Rowe competed in her first-ever high school meet. Her best event of the night was the 300-meter hurdles. She placed 6th overall with an exceptional effort of 54.6 seconds. In the high jump competition, Tara leaped an impressive 4'4" and placed 8th overall. She also competed in the triple jump competition and placed 9th with a superb leap of 28'4".

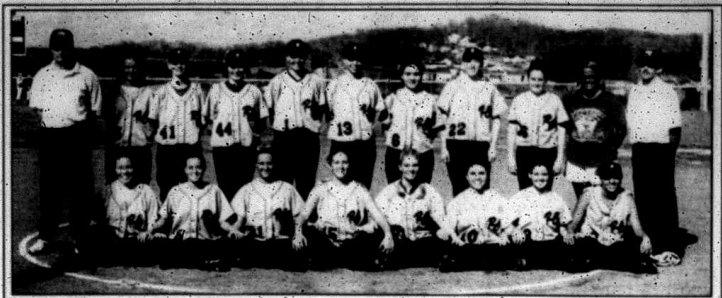
8th graders Kayla Hayes and Jessica Asher had the daunting task of competing in the distance events for Rockcastle. Both girls ran extremely well. Kayla finished an amazing 3rd overall in the 1600-meter run with an awesome time of 6:32.5. Jessica also ran very well and finished 6th overall in 13:59.5. In the 3200-meter run, Kayla once again ran a spectacular race and finished 4th overall with an impressive time of 13:17.4. Jessica also ran a strong race and finished 6th overall in an impressive 13:59.5.

Kayla, along with 8th grade teammate Danielle Arnold, ran very well in the 800-meter run. Kayla placed 7th overall in 2:44.4. Danielle ran a tremendous race, despite limited practice time, and finished 9th in 2:48.8.

Freshman Cheré Embs competed very well in the long and triple jump competitions. Cheré jumped an impressive 14'6.25" and placed 3rd overall. In her best event, triple jump, Cheré leaped her way to a 2nd place finish with an outstanding effort of 30'6".

The 800-meter relay team of Johnna Abney, Cheré Embs, Sarah Parsons, and Tara Rowe finished 4th overall in 4:10.1.

(Cont. to A10)



Members of this year's Lady Rockets softball team are, front row, from left: Alecia Lamb, Jessie Hayes, Tammy Dees, Rachel Uhlreich, Rachelle Riddle, Jessica Thacker, Krystal Parsons and Allison Anderson. Back row: Coach Clay Dollins, Lindsey Bassell, Rebekah Lyons, Amanda Ballew, Heather Pingleton, Amanda Rogers, Jessica Denny, Cassie Hamilton, Ashley Dollins and assistant coaches Casey Weaver and Mike Hayes. Not pictured was Brittany Offutt. The Rockets are 1 and 6 on the season, with their sole win coming against Danville, 22-19. Jessica Thacker hit a grand slam in that game. This Thursday, the Rockets travel to Clay County and Friday will host Madison Southern.

The Racing Reporter

By Gerald Hodges The Racing Reporter Bobby Labonte gets first win of season

MARTINSVILLE, Va. - Bobby Labonte held off Matt Kenseth during the final seven laps to win Winston Cup Virginia 500 under caution. It was the 19th win of his career, but the first this season and the first since he won last November at Atlanta.

"We had a good car in practice yesterday, but we didn't qualify well," said the driver of the No. 18 Interstate Batteries Pontiac. "These guys did a great job in the pits today and we made some adjustments that allowed us to be where we needed to be at the end."

"We went with two tires there close to the end. I figured if I was up front I had a better shot than being behind somebody."

Tony Stewart, who led the most laps was third. Dale Jarrett was fourth, and Earnhardt Jr. rounded out the top five.

Once Stewart gained the lead on lap 68, he dominated. He built as much as a 10-second lead at times and led until Lap 257, when the race leaders pitted under caution. Stewart stalled on pit road, losing several positions.

Pole sitter, Jeff Gordon had a one-lap penalty for having too many crew members over pit wall, and power steering difficulties on his No. 24 DuPont Chevrolet. He finished 23rd.

Finishing order: 1. Bobby Labonte, 2. Matt Kenseth, 3. Tony Stewart, 4. Dale Jarrett, 5. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 6. Terry Labonte, 7. Ricky Rudd, 8. Mark Martin, 9. Jeff Burton, 10. Kurt Busch, 11. Jeremy Mayfield, 12. Sterling Marlin, 13. Michael Waltrip, 14. Ward Burton, 15. Hut Stricklin, 16. Rusty Wallace, 17. Dave Blaney, 18. Stacy Compton.

19. Johnny Benson, 20. Kyle Petty, 21. Jimmy Spencer, 22. Jeff Green, 23. Jeff Gordon, 24. Steve Park, 25. Brett Bodine, 26. Mike Skinner, 27. Bobby Hamilton, 28. Elliott Sadler, 29. Hermie Sadler, 30. Ricky Craven, 31. Bill Elliott, 32. Kenny Wallace, 33. Buckshot Jones, 34. Robby Gordon, 35. Jimmie Johnson, 36. Ken Schrader, 37. Rick Mast, 38. Casey Atwood, 39. Jerry Nadeau, 40. Frank Kimmel, 41. Ryan Newman, 42. John

Andretti, 43. Andy Hillenburg. Top-10 points leaders after 8 of 36 events: 1. Martin-1209, 2. Kenseth-1182, 3. Martin-1080, 4. R. Wallace-1077, 5. Stewart-1062, 6. Busch-1027, 7. Johnson-1021, 8. J. Gordon-1009, 9. Earnhardt Jr.-993, Rudd-993.

Did Nascar overreact?
Was NASCAR's response to Kevin Harvick's driving tactics during the Craftsman Truck race on Saturday too severe? Or does NASCAR need to reduce some of the overly aggressive driving?

The Richard Childress driver was suspended and not allowed to run in Sunday's Winston Cup Virginia 500. The decision came after Harvick and Coy Gibbs had tangled several times during the Advance 250. Gibbs spun Harvick one time following a

(Cont. to A10)

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May 2002

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