

backfield with Reagan and Taylor will handle the placekicking and punting.

Junior Devon Bussell will play a lot of tight end, especially while Boreing is injured.

Defensively there are several positions that a lot of kids are fighting for, but Saylor says he has a pretty good idea, who will be there and who will not.

Brummett, Abney, Boreing, (when he is completely healthy), Reagan and James Michael Bussell will return.

Sophomore Chris Croucher will start at the middle linebacker and French, Thomas and junior Brandon Campbell will all see action on the defensive line.

Devon Bussell will play some linebacker and Max Saylor will also play some on defense.

Taylor will start at times on defense and junior Caleb Blair will also see action in the secondary.

Anderkin will start at free safety, but Coach Saylor said he would be taken out at the first opportunity to avoid injury.

He will also hold for field goals and extra points.

"It will take us a few games to get our defense where we want it, because we are actually pretty inexperienced," Saylor said.

"I think we could be a good team, but there are a lot of excellent teams out there, such as Lexington Catholic," Larkey said. "They are the team everyone is talking about in 3A," he said.

Catholic may be the team people are talking about, but the ROCK has been ranked as high as second in some 3A polls, behind last year's winner Boyle County.

Besides Mason County, Larkey and Saylor believe Paul Lawrence Dunbar out of Lexington and Bell County, a district foe will be the other real tough opponents on Rockcastle's schedule.

Dunbar has one of the

better players in the state in tailback Aaron Mason, who is ranked the number one player in the Lexington area region.

Bell County has the infamous Dudley Hilton as their head coach, a man who has won state championships in both 3A football and 2A football.

The good news for Rocket fans is that both Dunbar and Bell County must play at the ROCK.

It should be noted that while coaching together, Larkey and Saylor have a combined record of 154 and 46 and last year they defeated Bell County twice in the same season.

Tickets for Saturday night's contest at Danville are \$8.00 each and can be purchased at the high school or at the gate for the same price.

The gates will open at 4:45 p.m.

Senior Bridgette Lear will represent Rockcastle in the Queen Contest.

Meet some more Rockets!



Junior Devin Taylor will be a key factor in the Rocket offense and defense. He will also do the placekicking and punting.

Support the Rockets!



The Rockets have had to fill some gaps after possibly their best lineman, junior Jason Leger went down with a broken foot at summer football camp in Jabez.



Sophomore Max Saylor will see a lot of playing time on both sides of the ball.



Sophomore Chris Croucher will start at middle linebacker.



250 lb. tackle Nick Thomas is a junior and one of Rockcastle's talented offensive and defensive linemen.

Rocket fans are dedicated

The United States' 49th state, Alaska, is known for the midnight sun and their beautiful scenery.

It has been called America's last frontier and is always referred to as a national treasure, but what most people don't know it is also home to two of Rockcastle County's biggest football fans.

One of the two is also a fan and the other one is his mother.

In 1999 when Beverly Bullen Ping's husband, William, was transferred to an Air Force base near Anchorage she, of course, went with him.

Her son, Brandon Reams, who is currently a junior at the ROCK, finished out his freshman year and joined his mother and step-father in Alaska.

However Brandon was not through with Rockcastle football.

"He absolutely loves it and he doesn't even get to play much varsity," his mother said.

Beverly said that Brandon asked if he could return to Rockcastle during football season and once that was over, he would return to Alaska to be with his family.

"It was a tough decision, but when someone loves Rockcastle football and everything associated

with it as much as Brandon does, it was hard to say no," she says.

So last year Brandon returned from Alaska to live with his grandparents, Joe and Catherine Bullen, and go to school at the ROCK, where he also rejoined the football team.

At the end of last year's historic season, Brandon returned to Alaska to be with his family and finish his sophomore year in high school.

He has done this same thing this year and will likely do the same next year, provided his stepdad is not transferred again.

To show just what kind of mother and fan of her son, (and the Rockets) Beverly Ping is, she cooked up a little surprise for Brandon last year.

Beverly and Brandon talk on a daily basis and before every game last year Beverly would wish Brandon good luck on the upcoming game.

Championship game week Beverly did not call Brandon as usual the day before and wish him luck and as she said he was apparently a little depressed by the "no call".

His mom had other plans.

Plans to get on a jet and fly the 13 to 15 hours it takes to go from Anchorage to Louisville in order to be at Cardinal Stadium when Brandon got off the school bus with the rest of his teammates.

"I wanted to surprise him and with the help of my parents, I did just that," she said.

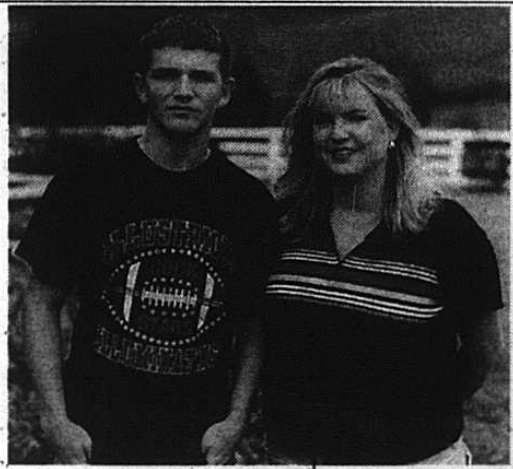
"The first thing he said was that he wondered why I hadn't

called to wish him good luck," she said.

"I just did it in person," Beverly continued.

Beverly got into Louisville on Friday night, went to the game and spent the rest of the weekend with her son, before returning to Alaska on Sunday.

And you think you are a Rocket fan.



Brandon Reams and his mom, Beverly Ping