

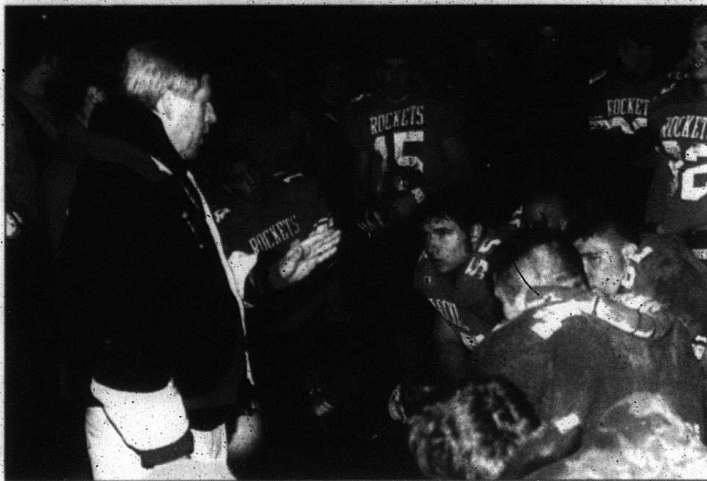


Mission says at Christ's Outreach
See Pg. B4

Mount Vernon Signal

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Head Coach Tom Larkey congratulated his team after they won a third straight regional title on Friday night.

Bell County goes down for second time

Rockets win third straight regional title with 31-14 win

The Rockcastle County Rocket football team will play in their third straight state semi-final game on Friday night after a 31-14 win over visiting Bell County in the regional final.

Bell County has been considered the class of the region for years by many observers - but the class of the region certainly has to be considered the ROCK, after their three year dominance of the Bobcats.

A large crowd braved the extremely cold temperatures as the Rockets won their 12th straight game of the season putting their record at 12-1.

The Rockets also overcame a fumble on the opening kick-off and some very questionable calls. Two touchdowns were also called back.

Quarterback Aaron Andorkin turned in his best performance of the season, throwing for 111 yards and rushing for another 38. He had no interceptions. He threw two touchdown passes and rushed for two touchdowns.

Marty Reagan also played well again with 89 yards on 17 carries. Reagan also had a touchdown run and an extra point conversion.

Devin Taylor had five catches for 76 yards and he also kicked a field goal and two extra points. He caught a second quarter touchdown pass as well.

Derrick Hurst caught a 35 yard touchdown pass in the first quarter, after catching the ball he made an excellent run to the end zone.

Fullback Clet Swinney had 60 yards on five carries.

The game was tight throughout the first half, with Rockcastle leading 7-6 and then 15-6 before going up 21-6 with less than two minutes in the half.

But Bell took the ball straight down the field scoring a touchdown and the two point conversion, to make the score 21-14 at halftime.

But that would be it for Bell County as the Rocket defense held them without a score in the second half and the Rocket offense put up ten points.

Christmas in the Park scheduled for December 6

The Rockcastle Kiwanis Club's annual Christmas in the Park will be held December 6th at 6 p.m. in the Triangle Park, downtown Mt. Vernon.

The program highlights will include entertainment by local musicians, lighting of the Christmas tree, and carriage rides will be available for hire by Mr. Ray Philbeck.

The City of Mt. Vernon will also hold its annual Christmas parade

Head coach Tom Larkey praised his offensive and defensive lines for another good performance.

"Abney, Rice, Brummett, Thomas, Leger and Boring did a great job of giving Anderkin time to throw and making holes for our backs," Larkey said.

Defensive coach Tony Saylor also had nothing but praise for his defense. "They stopped a good team especially in the second half," Saylor said.

"I think our kids wanted it more and they adjusted well in the second half," he said.

The Rocket offense had 287 yards and the Rocket defense held the Bobcats to 213 total yards.

Senior Stephen Boring and junior

Devon Bussell led the defensive unit in tackles. Boring had 13 tackles and assists and Bussell had twelve.

Reagan recorded a sack and ten tackles and assists. Benny Northern had a sack, fumble recovery and four tackles and assists.

Jason Leger had six tackles, Michael Brummett had three tackles and assists, Tanner Abney had five tackles and assists and James Bussell had three tackles and assists.

Linebacker Chris Croucher had seven tackles and assists, Taylor had two tackles and assists and a key interception.

Hurst had one tackle.

The Rockets, who have had seven straight winning seasons

under the guidance of Larkey and Saylor will face Fort Thomas Highlands, a team who defeated Lexington Catholic last week.

Highlands has a record of 10-3, but have lost to three very good teams, two of which were AA schools.

This season the Bluebirds lost to Dixie Heights, Henry Clay and Louisville Male.

In 2000 Highlands defeated the ROCK 41-9 in the semi-final game.

Last year the ROCK defeated Covington Catholic in the semi-final game to advance to the state finals in Louisville.

"We can't make any mistakes and we have to control the line of scrimmage again," Larkey said.

Game time at the ROCK is 7:30

Numerous large fines for illegal hunting here

But most abide by the laws

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has been active in Rockcastle County during the past couple of months.

According to court records, Officer Steve Isaacs has charged at least thirty people with violations of Fish and Wildlife laws. He has also charged at least five individuals with violations of law that are not Fish and Wildlife laws, which he has legal authority to do, such as burglary and drug related charges.

The incarceration time, fines and costs vary based on the charges and facts of each case, but a review of cases already disposed of in court reveal stiff penalties are being imposed.

"We are trying to be fair with everyone who is charged with these types of offenses," Rockcastle County Attorney Jeff Burdette indicated. "And Officer Isaacs of the Department of Fish and Wildlife having updated our office at one point during modern gun season, that he had checked 91 hunters and all were compliant with the law. That shows that enforcement is working and that most of our citizens are diligent in hunting legally," Burdette added.

"And, all other law enforcement agencies are working in cooperation with the Department to promote safe and legal hunting, so we can conserve our wildlife in Rockcastle County."

Persons charged with illegally taking wildlife have been required to reimburse the state for the cost of the wildlife taken. Some have lost their firearms, and forfeited their right to hunt for up to three years.

Last Wednesday, Christopher Fleming, 27, of Copper Creek, was caught hunting deer without a license and had to pay over \$350 in fines and costs, reimburse the Department of Fish and Wildlife \$757 for the illegally taken deer, lost his hunting privileges for three years, forfeit all four weapons, ammunition, deer grunt calls and had to pay towing and storage for his confiscated 1991 Chevy pickup.

On October 30th, Karac Grubb, 18, of Livingston, paid nearly \$1,000 in fines and costs for illegally taking a wild turkey. He was required to pay replacement costs for the turkey to the department in the amount of \$275 and lost his hunting privileges for two years.

Jerry Price, II, 21, of Somerset, was found guilty of "spotlighting" and fined \$150 plus costs on November

13. Delbert Slusher, 25 and his wife, Amanda, 18, both of Livingston, illegally possessed protected wildlife, raccoons and received over \$300 in fines and costs. Mr. Slusher had to forfeit his weapon to the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Other cases have been resolved with fines and forfeitures, and numerous other cases are still pending.

Notably, the cases of brothers Jonathan, 20, and Michael McKinney, 26, of Sand Springs are pending a resolution in court. The McKinneys were arrested after approximately 87 counts were leveled against them for illegal possession and taking of deer and turkey. A felony gun charge is also pending.

Kidnapper gets federal jail time

Ruth Lillard, who was convicted of kidnapping a Mt. Vernon man and then forcing him at knifepoint to drive to Tennessee, has been sentenced to 14 years in prison - almost twice the time her partner in the crime received after he pleaded guilty.

Ruth Lillard, 30, was tried in July and sentenced Thursday. Justin Lillard, 23, pleaded guilty in April and received a seven year, three-month sentence, in part because he cooperated and did not force a trial.

Last year, the pair from Joplin, Missouri, kidnapped Mike Jones, 48, as he was shopping his pickup truck to them and their baby. They forced him to drive down Interstate 75 to Caryville, Tennessee, where Jones escaped to safety with only minor injuries.

Brodhead Parade

Organizers announced this week that entries are needed for the Brodhead Christmas parade.

All local floats, cars, horses, four-wheelers, beauty queens are being solicited. Parade starts at 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 7. All entries are welcome.

For information please call Victoria Dunn at (606)355-2644, Anita Shackelford (606)758-9630 or Tim Albright (606)758-9630.

Police make more drug arrests

A second wave of arrests in what police are calling a major drug trafficking business operating between Texas and Kentucky took place Friday, with seven more arrests on cocaine charges.

The seven are linked with 11 arrested in an October roundup and indicted earlier this month in U.S. District Court in Lexington.

Richard Badaracco of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said Friday's second wave of arrests likely will be the last in this particular investigation, which has been going on 16 months and involved 18 federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

Most of those arrested Friday live in Lincoln County, as did the bulk of those already under indictment.

Operating with Sheriff Shelby Lakes out of a makeshift headquarters in the old Kentucky Utilities building, which is owned by the county, DEA agents found most of their targets at home and unaware of their impending arrests.

All those arrested were held briefly in the Lincoln County Jail before transfer to a federal lockup in Lexington.

Those arrested Friday include Tracy and Gregory Allen Davis of 545 Rocky Hollow Road, (Cont. to A-8)

Constable Tommy Bullen sentenced

Gregory F. Van Tatenhouse, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Special Agent in Charge, J. Stephen Tidwell, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Chief William Mink, Mt. Vernon Police Department and Appalachia High Intensity

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(Cont. to A-6)



The Rockcastle County 43rd Annual Farmers/Businessman's Banquet was held on Monday, November 18th at the Rockcastle County Middle School. The Business Award winner was Mrs. Ercel Cromer, owner of Jack's Pro Hardware in Mt. Vernon. Mt. Vernon Lions Club president David DeBor presented Mrs. Cromer the award.



Tommy H. Mink presents the Master Conservationist award to Jerry Price during the annual Farmers/Businessman's Banquet last week. Looking on is Price's wife, Tina.