

RCHS baseball team wins region for first time

After twenty-seven years, Rockets head to state

For the first time in school history the Rockcastle County Rockets baseball team has won the 13th regional baseball championship.

The Rockets will compete in the state tournament beginning Wednesday, June 7, at Corbin High School when they will take on Lee County.

The Rockets got to the state tournament by winning the 49th district tournament and then sweeping through the regional tournament with impressive wins over Bell County, Corbin and Middlesboro.

With the wins in tournament action the Rockets are an impressive 24 and 6 on the season and only four wins away from a state title.

In the regional tournament the Rockets defeated two of the best three pitchers in the region, and no doubt the two best teams, besides Rockcastle County.

Corbin's Brian Engle was 11-2 when the Rockets handed him his third loss of the season with a 4-1 victory.

Rocket ace Greg Harper de-

livered one of his best performances of the season giving up only one run, on two hits. He struck out ten Redhounds and walked only four. It was his twelfth win of the season, against only one loss.

In the regional championship game, the Rockets defeated Middlesboro in a nine inning contest, 4-3.

They also defeated the Yellowjacket's two best pitching in Jeremy Skidmore and David Wynn.

Junior Christopher Parsons had his best outing of the year from the hill, going seven innings and giving up only three runs on four hits.

He struck out ten and walked only two.

Junior Brandon Bishop, who was the winning pitcher on Tuesday night against Bell County, finished off the Yellowjackets, pitching two scoreless innings, in which he gave up only one hit and one walk.

All three Rocket starting pitchers in the region were named to the all-region team, along with shortstop Derrick Bussell.

The Rockets began the regional tournament with a 14-4 win over Bell County. The game lasted only six innings with Bishop picking up the win and Parsons the save.

Bishop allowed only four hits and two runs in five innings. Parsons also gave up two runs on two hits.

Second baseman Shea Taylor and Harper, who played in the outfield, each homered against Bell County. Parsons had a triple and catcher Brad McNew had two doubles. Parsons and Harper each added a double. Parsons had three hits, Taylor, Harper and McNew two each, Bussell, Andrew Cash, and Bishop each added a hit.

All total 34 Rockets went to the plate with 12 of them getting hits.

But on Wednesday night with flame thrower Brian Engle on the mound for Corbin the Rockets managed only three hits, all singles.

Neal Childress, Bussell and Harper had the only Rocket hits.

Engle struck out nine and walked four. But he hit two batters, one which forced in a run when the bases were loaded.

The Rockets scored another run when the catcher made a bad throw to first on a strike out.

(Cont. to A3)

Members of the 2000 Rockcastle County High School Regional Championship Team

Jacob Burdette, of Mt. Vernon, senior, outfield, son of Rudy Burdette and Lama Durham.

Brad McNew, of Mt. Vernon, senior, catcher, son of Mary Ann McNew and the late Wayne McNew.

Andrew Cash, of Brodhead, senior, third base, son of Clayton and Debbie Cash.

Neal Childress, of Brodhead, senior, outfield, son of Mike and Myrna Childress.

Billy Hackworth, Jr., of Roundstone, junior, outfield, son of Billy Hackworth, Sr. and Velina Pingleton.

Shea Taylor, of Brodhead, junior, second base, son of Coy and Linda Taylor.

Christopher Parsons, of Mt. Vernon, junior, first base, pitcher, son of Lynn and Carla Parsons.

Greg Harper, of Brodhead, junior, pitcher, outfield, first base, son of Everett and Debbie Harper.

Derrick Bussell, of Brodhead, junior, shortstop, son of Jim and Nancy Bussell.

Dackery Larkey, of London, junior, outfield, son of Tom and Darlene Larkey.

Brandon Bishop, of

Brodhead, junior, pitcher, infield, son of George and Jenny Bishop.

Tim McClure, of Mt. Vernon, sophomore, outfield, son of Sherman McClure and Connie McClure.

Brandon McIntosh, of Roundstone, sophomore, outfield, son of Joe and Rita McIntosh.

John Bray, of Mt. Vernon, sophomore, second base, pitcher, son of Richard and Jenny Bray.

Aaron Anderkin, of Mt. Vernon, freshman, pitcher, infield, son of Rick and Cindy Anderkin.

Austin Miller, of Mt. Vernon, freshman, outfield, pitcher, son of James and Dee Ann Miller.

Shawn Cloud, of Mt. Vernon, freshman, outfield, son of George Cloud and Alice Cloud.

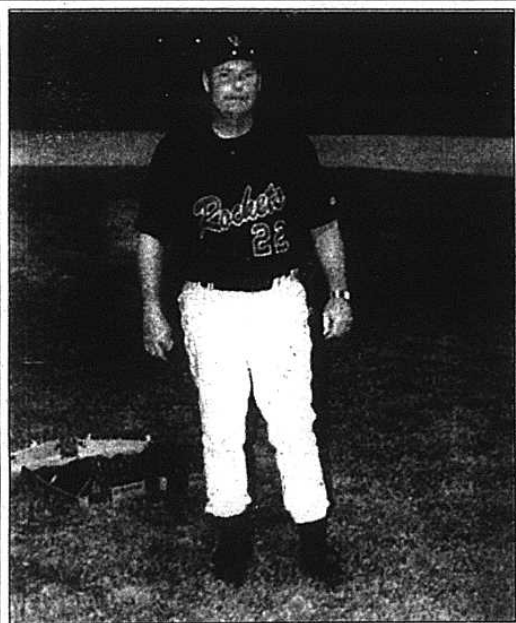
Stephen Boreing, of Mt. Vernon, freshman, infield, pitcher, son of Bobby and Becky Boreing.

Marty Reagan, of Mt. Vernon, freshman, catcher, son of Kelly and Lisa Allen.

James Bussell, of Mt. Vernon, freshman, infield, son of Mike Bussell and Donna Childress.

Aaron Cash, of Brodhead, seventh grade, infield, son of Clayton and Debbie Cash.

Head Coach Ryan Riddle, assistants, Adam Coleman and J. D. Bussell.



Head Coach Ryan Riddle has won 226 games as coach of the Rockets and led them to ten straight regional tournaments.



Shown above are the Rockets after a successful week in Florida during Spring Break, front row from left: John Bray, Billy Hackworth, Brandon McIntosh, Jacob Riddle (bat boy), Austin Miller, Marty Reagan, James M. Bussell. Second row from left: Aaron Anderkin, Neal Childress, Shea Taylor, Derrick Bussell, Brandon Bishop, Andrew Cash and Aaron Cash. Back row from left: asst. coach J.D. Bussell, Tim McClure, Brad McNew, Christopher Parsons, Greg Harper, Jacob Burdette, head coach Ryan Riddle. Not present were asst. coach Adam Coleman, Dackery Larkey, Stephen Boreing, Shawn Cloud.