

Whitley falls 25-8

Rockets win battle of the unbeatens

By: Richard Anderkin
The Rockcastle County Rockets won the battle of the unbeatens Friday night when they topped Whitley County 25-8.

The Rockets used a tenacious defense, a new look on offense and an excellent kicking game to dispose the Colonels.

The Rockets improved to 7-0 and are now the front runners in the race for a district and region title.

The Colonels fell to 6 and 1 and for the most part, lost any hope of winning a district title.

The win for Rockcastle set up a showdown with Bell County the last week of the regular season. The Rockets have never beaten Bell County in high school football, but

the Rockets will likely be favored when the two hook up on October 27 at the ROCK.

On Friday night the Rockets opened the game with a 72 yard drive, that culminated in a 10 yard touchdown run by Derrick Bussell.

Greg Terry added the extra point and the Rockets were ahead 7-0.

Rockcastle got the ball back, but on their next possession, a trick play ended in a Whitley County interception and the Colonels took advantage.

The Colonels marched the ball down the field and scored on a 28 yard pass play. They added a two point conversion, after a Rocket penalty and led 8-7.

But then the Rockets inserted

offensive guard Sean Smith and middle linebacker Travis Ingram into the backfield.

The new look Rockets would score twice before half-time and take a 22-8 lead into the dressing room.

The Rockets' second score of the night came when guard turned half-back Sean Smith took the ball in from the one yard line.

All total, Smith carried the ball seven times for 40 yards. Some of his carries came on crucial third down situations.

After Smith's touchdown, Quarterback Christopher Parsons carried the ball in for the two point conversions for a 15-7 lead.

The Rockets used their ROCK hard defense to set up their third and final score of the first half.

Whitley County was forced to punt from the two yard line and Bussell returned it to the 12 yard line.

On third down, Bussell scored from the three and Rockcastle would lead 22-8, after Greg Terry added the extra point.

The second half, both teams played extremely good defense and the Rocket lead was much more than Whitley County could overcome.

The only score of the half came in the third quarter when Greg Terry nailed a 42 yard field goal.

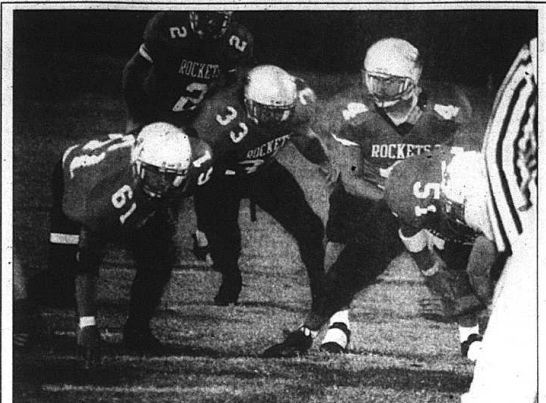
When the dust had settled Rockcastle had gained only 178 yards on offense and scored 25 points. Whitley County had gained a total of 214 yards, but scored only eight points.

No doubt the difference in the game was turnovers.

Whitley County was plagued by five turnovers, four fumbles and one interception. Rockcastle had none.

The Rockets young offensive line, which had no seniors on it between

(Cont. to A9)



Steve Blair #61, Derrick Bussell #2, Travis Ingram #33, Christopher Parsons #4 and William Blair #51 prepare to take off on a running play Friday night against Whitley County. The Rockets won 25-8 in a showdown of unbeaten teams.

Freshmen defeat Bell Co. 42-0

The Rockcastle County High School freshmen football team remained undefeated last week when they downed the Bell-County Bobcats 42-0.

It was the fifth win of the season for the freshmen and kept the undefeated season for all RCHS football teams in tact.

Josh Brewer started the scoring with a 10 yard run to make the score 6-0 in the first quarter.

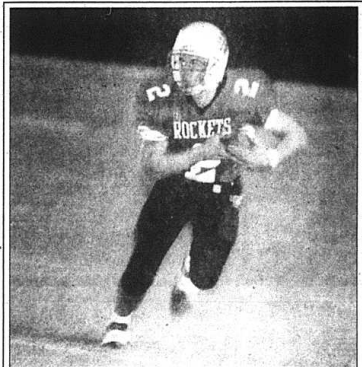
Also in the first quarter, Brewer scored on a 80 yard run and quarterback Devin Taylor added the extra point conversion.

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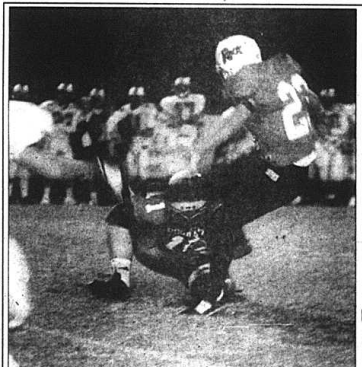
In conference play Middle School undefeated

The Rockcastle County Middle School Eighth Grade Rockets improved their conference record to 6-0 with a 22-8 win over rival Corbin last Thursday night. The Rockets used terrific team defense and ball control offense to overcome an 8-6 halftime deficit. The win assured the Rockets of the first seed in the SouthCentral Middle School Conference Playoffs and more importantly, home field advantage. The Eighth Grade will attempt to complete an undefeated conference schedule when they travel to South Laurel for the regular season finale on Thursday night.

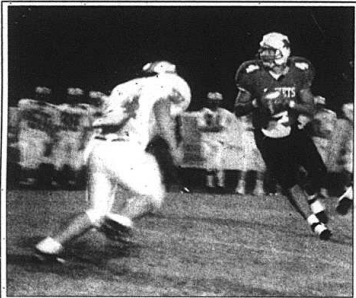
First Round Playoff action will begin for the Rockets at 6:00 on Thursday, October 19 at the Rock. The Championship game will be played the following Thursday, October 26 at 7:30. The Eighth Grade Championship game will be preceded at 6:00 by the Seventh Grade Conference Championship which features a rematch between the undefeated Seventh Grade Rockets and 6-1 Wayne County. Earlier in the season, the Rock defeated Wayne County on their home field in a thrilling double overtime battle.



Senior Derrick Bussell scored two touchdowns and rushed for 67 yards Friday night, as the Rockets defeated highly touted Whitley County, 25-8.



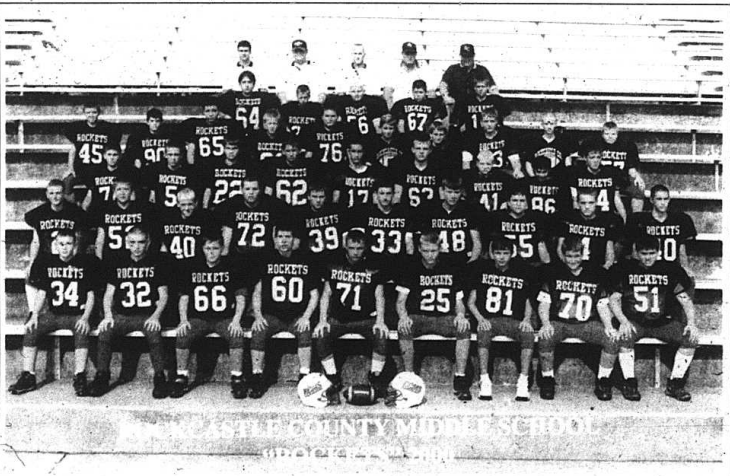
Rocket placekicker Greg Terry had a big hand in the Rocket win on Friday night. Besides kicking two extra points, he also hit a 42 yard field goal, shown above.



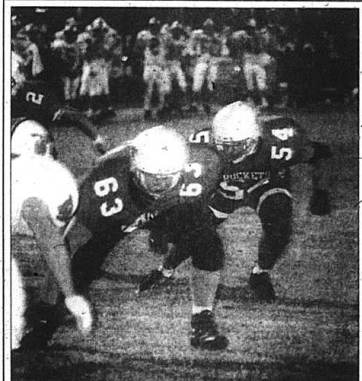
Rockcastle County Quarterback Christopher Parsons completed six of seven pass attempts on Friday night. He also scored a two point conversion in the Rockets win over Whitley County. The Rockets travel to Knox Central on Friday night. They are seven and 0 in 2000.



The Rockcastle County Middle School Rocket football teams are enjoying undefeated conference seasons in both the seventh and eighth grade divisions. Above, Travis Smith blocks on the offensive line in the North Laurel game. The 7th and 8th grade teams both defeated Corbin last week. The 8th grade will play in the first round of the play-offs on October 19th at RCMS.



Members of the seventh and eighth grade Rockcastle County Middle School Football team for 2000 are pictured above, front row from left: Josh Bussell, Steven Rowe, Scotty Cromer, Nick Eaton, Chris Sparks, Blake Roberts, Frank Christian, Gabe Gulliford, and Josh Lovell. Second row from left: Matthew Burkhardt, Brandon Collins, Justin Burkhardt, Jeff Ramey, Ricky Sandusky, Max Saylor, Chris Croucher, Jacob Taylor, Jamie Howard, and Justin Albright. Third row from left: Robert Crawford, Derrick Hurst, Phil Boering, Russell Willey, Dustin Albright, Matt Allen, Cory Miller, Kyle Lawrence, and Charles Cannon. Fourth row from left: Bucky Skinner, Dustin Marcum, Graham Faye, Michael York, Kenny Gadd, Charles Lovell, Chris Miller, Mikey Denney, Dusty Emerson, and Travis Smith. Fifth row from left: Mark Weddle, Cody Lester, Brad Saylor, Zach Hale, and Justin Taylor. Back row are coaches John Burdette, Joe Cope, Scott Parkey, Burley Burkhardt, and Brandon Hargis. Both teams are undefeated in conference play and will host the conference championship games.



Tackle Tanner Abney, #63 and halfback Sean Smith, #54 prepare to lead block in Friday night's win over Whitley County. The Rockets will travel to Knox Central on Friday night.