

**State's leading rusher held to 18 yards**

# ROCK crushes Dogs 42-6 in opening round

By: Richard Anderkin

There is no question that this season the Rockcastle County Rockets have one of the best defenses in the state of Kentucky.

Friday night they showed just how good that defense is - when they held the state's leading rusher to just 18 yards.

Michael West of Lawrence County was no factor in the Rockets 42-6 win in the first round of state high school football play-offs.

In fact, West did not even play in the second half because of a slight injury.

The Rockets are now 11-0 on the season and headed for the second round of the state play-offs.

Friday night the Rockets combined their defense with an outstanding running game to help them average a 48-14 loss to Lawrence County a year ago in the regional finals.

Rockcastle wasted little time on Friday night getting on the score board.

After holding Lawrence County and West to nothing on their opening drive the Rockets wasted little time getting on the score board.

The Rockets took their opening drive and scored when senior quarterback Chris Parsons took the ball from the one yard line.

Greg Terry's kick made it 7-0 and the rout was on.

Senior Derrick Bussell added another score in the first period when he scampered 31 yards for a touchdown and Terry's kick made it 14-0 at the end of the first period.

Bussell then caught a 53 yard touchdown pass from Parsons and Terry's pat made it 21-0, early in the second.

Also in the second, sophomore Marty Reagan scored on a 25 yard run and, with Terry's kick, it was 28-

0 at halftime.

Reagan opened the scoring in the second half when he took the ball in from the six.

Terry's kick made it 35-0 in the third period.

Also in the third, junior Josh Hale picked up a Bulldog fumble and rambled 43 yards for the score.

Terry added his sixth extra point kick of the night and the Rockets were ahead 42-0.

Rockcastle head coach Tom Larkey and head assistant Tony Saylor began to pull their varsity players and in the fourth period, the Bulldogs scored on a pass play.

"I was very pleased with our running game Friday night - we didn't throw the ball much because we were running the ball so well," Larkey said.

Reagan and Bussell ran the ball real well and our offensive line, Jason Leger, William Blair, Tanner Abney, Sean Smith, Michael Brummett, Greg Harper and Dackery (Larkey), did a good job of blocking," Larkey said.

All total, the Rockets had 313 yards on the ground, which was a season high.

As for West, Saylor said his defense unit was instructed to attack the line of scrimmage and get him before he could get his shoulders squared.

West had 2,308 yards on the season, and was averaging 230 yards per contest before Friday night's game.

Saylor also credited his linebacking crew of seniors Travis Ingram, Greg Harper and Sean Smith with containing West. Those boys did a very good job of covering all the angles," he said.

Also on Friday night, Ingram set a school record for tackles and as-

sis.

Ingram now has 299 tackles and assists.

He broke the record of former Rocket Kevin Rowe, who had started four years at middle linebacker.

Ingram has set his mark in only two years at middle linebacker.

Besides Josh Hale's fumble recovery, Steve Blair, William Blair and Sean Smith all recovered Lawrence County fumbles.

The Rockets are the state's top ranked defense, allowing opponents an average of less than a hundred yards a game.

The Rocket varsity has also allowed only four touchdowns this season and three of those four were in the first two games of the campaign.

On Friday night, they allowed Lawrence County 169 yards, but most of those yards were after substitutions.

Picking up tackles and assists Friday night were: Sean Smith, 6, Tanner Abney, 8, William Blair, 5, Adam Childress, 2, Dackery Larkey, 5, Greg Harper, 5, Travis Ingram, 13, Josh Hale, 10, Clay Dooley, 8, Marty Reagan, 5, Derrick Bussell, 6, Josh Taylor, 1, P.J. Rowe, 3, Devin Taylor, 2, Michael Hayes, 1.

Offensively the Rockets had a total of 370 yards.

Parsons was two for three passing for 57 yards and a touchdown. He also rushed for 46 yards in three carries and he scored once in the ground.

Bussell had 80 yards on nine carries and he caught one pass for 53 yards. He scored twice.

Dooley had 19 yards on three carries.

Reagan was the leading rusher with 124 yards on 11 carries and he scored twice.

Hale had 38 yards on one carry and he caught one pass for four yards. He scored once.

P.J. Rowe had four yards on a carry and Josh Taylor had a yard on one carry, as did Aaron Anderkin.

Terry was six for six in extra point kicks.

The Rockets will host Paul Blazer High School from Ashland on Friday night.

Blazer is 7-4 on the season, but for six games they did not have their starting quarterback.

Since his return, Blazer is undefeated.

They also have the sixth best running game in the state, averaging over 300 yards a game.

They also have Arliss Beach, a running back averaging nearly 150 yards per game.

Two weeks ago, Blazer scored 43 points on a good Greenup team and last week they racked up 48 points against Bell County.

Blazer had 400 yards of offense against Bell in the 48-28 win.

They can score on anybody - we will have to be ready," coach Saylor said.

Game time is 7:30 p.m. at the ROCK.

Whitley County will travel to Sheldon Clark for the other regional game on Friday night.

Whitley County beat Greenup County last week 12-7 and Sheldon Clark destroyed Cawood 52-16.

Both teams are 10-1 on the season.

If the ROCK wins and Sheldon Clark wins the ROCK will head to Sheldon Clark at Inez next week.

If Whitley County and the ROCK win, the game will be played at the ROCK.

## RCMS Girls' Basketball

**7th Grade Championship Game at South Laurel**  
RCMS 26 - S.Laurel 29

Heather Hopkins 16, Ashley Lunsford 4, Jessica Robinson 4, Megan Anderkin 2.

**8th Grade Tournament at South Laurel**  
First Round

RCMS 43 - N. Pulaski 21.  
Johnna Abney 12; Tara Rowd 4; Katie Parsons 7; Heather Hammond 8; Gina McClure 4; Ashley Mizze 2; Sarah Parsons 1; Amanda Wright 2; Holly Colson 1; Ashley Kimberl 2.

Semi-Finals  
RCMS 45 - Corbin 39  
Johnna Abney 10; Tara Rowd 12; Katie Parsons 6; Heather Hammond 4; Gina McClure 6; Ashley Bell 2; Holly Colson 3; Ashley Kimberl 2.



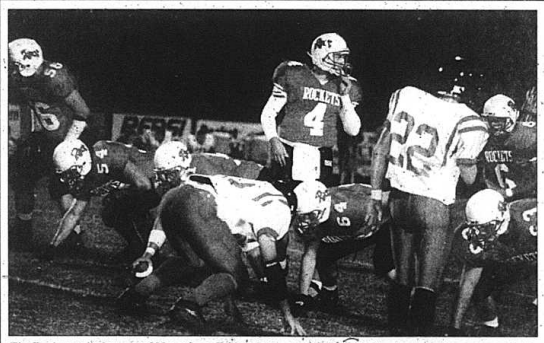
Quarterback Christopher Parsons hands off to Clay Dooley in Friday's night 42-16 win over Lawrence County. Also in the photo is #64 Michael Brummett. The Rockets host Paul Blazer from Ashland on Friday night.



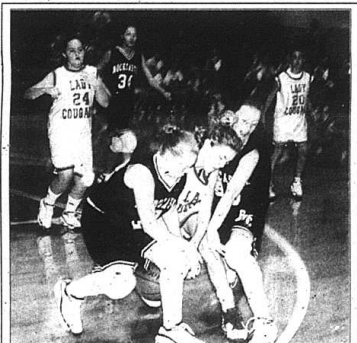
Dackery Larkey and Greg Harper combine to stop a Lawrence County runner on Friday night. The Rockets won the first round play-off game 42-6. They host Paul Blazer on Friday night.



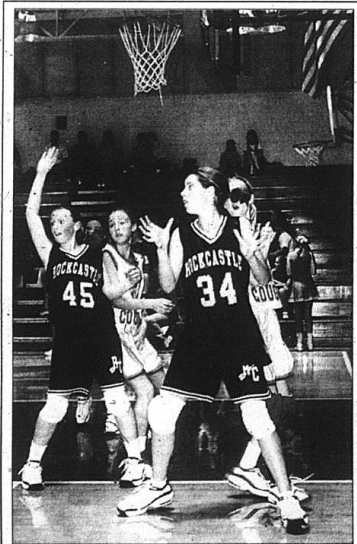
Marty Reagan #24 scored two touchdowns and gained 124 yards in Friday night's 42-6 win over Lawrence County.



The Rockets rolled up over 300 yards on Friday thanks mostly to their offensive line. Shown above, from left: Jason Leger, Sean Smith, William Blair, Michael Brummett and Tanner Abney. Also in the photo are Christopher Parsons and Clay Dooley. The Rockets host Paul Blazer Friday night.



Jessica Robinson and Heather Hopkins apply the defense in the championship game of the girl's seventh grade tourney at South Laurel. The Rockcastle team lost 29-26.



Heather Hopkins #45, and Megan Anderkin #34, call for the ball in the seventh grade girls loss to South Laurel Thursday night. Hopkins scored a season high 16 points and Anderkin added two.

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