

Lady Rocket rally falls short 55-44

By: Willie Hiett

What was once a 19-point mountain early in the second half last Thursday night crumbled to just eight with six minutes left. Eight points and the Lady Rockets would topple powerful Jackson County.

The story here, however, isn't that the upset never developed. Almost as expected, Jackson's press collected eight straight points to clinch a 55-44 win. What's bigger is that these same Lady Rockets who lost by 55 three weeks ago were actually in a position to win.

"I didn't realize it until it was back up to 12," senior point guard Cindy Fain said of the Rockets comeback. "They got two quick baskets and that seemed to be it."
What remains to be seen, though, is how this game will effect the March 4 meeting between these two teams in the 49th District Tournament.

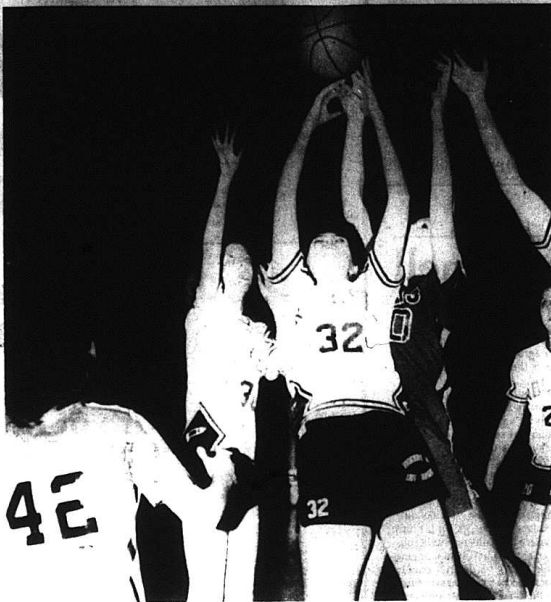
"We would just have to play tremendous defense," RCHS coach Preston Parrett said of that game. "We've got the worst habit. We don't watch the weak side. People cut to the weakside wide open."

Senior Sandy Hunter led the Rockets, who dropped to 5-11, with 15 points. Lori Mink, who suffered a slight concussion late in the game and was taken to the hospital, scored 14 and Rhonda Cobb finished with nine.
Jackson County, one of the top five teams in the 13th Region, improved to 8-9 this season.

"We were a little more patient," Parrett said. "When we pass the ball six or seven times we can usually make a basket. A shot kills us when we go down and bomb it up with one pass."

Down 36-19 at the half, the Rockets opened the second half with a 15 footer by Mink. Jackson's Tanya Parrett and Lisa Harris each scored to go up 40-21 with under seven minutes left.

But over the last six minutes of the third quarter and the first



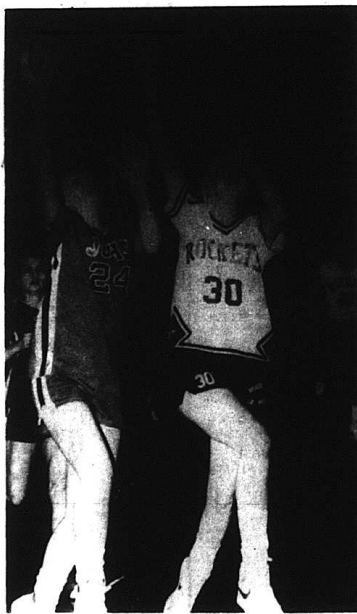
Lady Rocket Rhonda Cobb fights for a rebound in their 55-44 loss to Jackson County last Thursday night at home.

two of the fourth, Hunter scored nine points as the Rockets worked their patient offense. They put together a 14-4 run that cut the lead to 45-37 with less than seven minutes left.

"We started pressing a little," Fain said, "and working the ball more patiently."

The Jackson press, however, took over from there. In the next minute and a half, Sandy Kilburn scored six points in a 8-0 spurt to put the game out of reach at 53-37. "I thought we had a shot," Parrett said, "but things went a little haywire."

The Lady Rockets lost 34-24 in the B-team game. Stephanie Northern led with 11 points. Angie Dowell had eight and Regina McClure finished with four points.



Tanya Parrett, No. 30 tries to block a lay up Jackson Co.

Rockets fizzle out at Laurel 92-34

By: Willie Hiett

If Rockcastle's game with Laurel County last Friday night had been televised on a delayed basis, chances are nobody would have stayed up and watched it.

The 92-34 Rocket loss certainly wouldn't have been a delayed coup, much less a game worth recording on the VCR. About the only redeeming feature of the game from a Rockcastle slant was the play of sophomores Kris Ponder and Chuck Shields.

Ponder, who scored 20 points in the B-team's 51-41 loss, also led the varsity Rockets with 13 points. Although Shields scored only two points, he and Ponder were an encouraging preview of the high school's basketball future. "I thought the sophomores played well," said RCHS coach David Perkins. "With the exception of a few bad shots, we didn't do anything we hadn't planned on doing."

Junior Jon Bullens scored six points and senior Johnny Kirby had four for the Rockets, who dropped to 7-12 this season. Senior Deug Cox didn't play because of a strained muscle in his back.

The 20th-ranked Cardinals, 20-3 stop the 12th Region, found balanced scoring in Kevin Elza, Tim Hill and Craig McFadden, each finishing with 18 points.

Besides the Rockets' sophomores, the only interesting twist to the game came afterwards, when Perkins and Laurel coach Chuck Broughton indirectly exchanged barbs about each other's coaching strategy.

The Rockets had executed a patient offense most of the game. But with 2:30 left and Laurel still building its 90-32 lead, Perkins called for a four corner freeze to prevent the Cardinals from reaching 100 points.

Broughton had shuttled his

starters in and out the whole game, and didn't remove David Gibson and Robert Teague until there were only 40 seconds left.

"Our attitude is when we're behind we're going to try to win," said Broughton, alluding to the Rocket stall.

Perkins, however, apparently took a dim view of Broughton allowing his team to light up the scoreboard. "I felt like that was about as bad as he could beat us," Perkins said.

Perkins added, "I don't go out and recruit basketball players, either," charging that Laurel's Hill played for Whitley County last season.

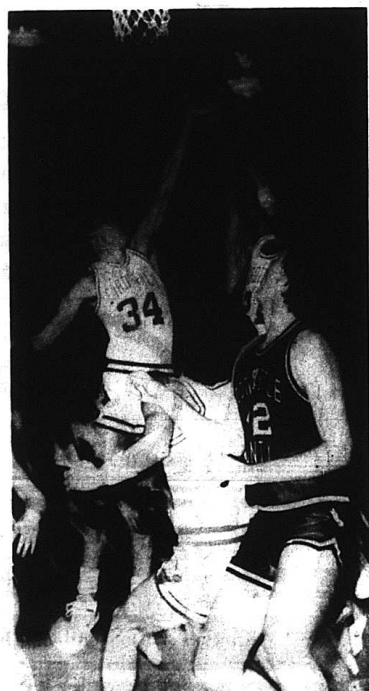
Perkins, who softened his remarks by saying that he wasn't criticizing Broughton, said Laurel was the most talented team he has seen this season. He even went as far as saying that "if they don't win the state tournament, something is wrong."

When reminded that Henry Clay beat Laurel by more than 20 points on its home court two weeks ago, Perkins qualified his statement by saying that the Cardinals would be at least win the 12th Region.

Make no mistake, however, that this is the most talented Laurel team since the Cardinals captured the 1982 state tournament. Besides losing to Henry Clay, Laurel's only other losses came against Monticello and Madison Central.

"It's hard to compare teams," Broughton said, when asked to compare this team with the 1982 club. "(This is) a little slower team, a little bigger team. We don't have the quickness, but with the exception of a game or two, we're a better rebounding team."

Also in the B-team game, Shields finished with seven points, Darren Allen six, Adam Coleman four and David Owens two.



Junior Tim Hodges gets a shot off over two Laurel County players in the Rockets 92-34 loss last Friday.

NAPA maintains 1st

NAPA maintained their first place position in the Thursday night Rockcastle Mixed League at Maroon Lanes in Richmond with 50 1/2 wins and 33 1/2 losses. The Pin Busters are in second at 47 1/2 and 36 1/2 and the Top Guns are third at 45 1/2 and 38 1/2.

High team series for the week went to the Top Guns with a 2422. The Misfits were second with a 2264 and the Pin Busters third at 2309. The Top Guns also took high team game with an 869. The Misfits had an 835 and the High Rollers an 815.

Henry Vanzant had high men's series with a 581. Jim Cromer was second at 557 and Perry Noe, third, at 555. Jim

Cromer took high men's game with a 209. Perry Noe had a 203 and Henry Vanzant a 198.

Jamie Bryant had high women's series with a 581. Tammy Wilson was second with a 488 and Evelyn Mullins, third, with a 480. Jamie Bryant also had first and second high women's games with a 210 and 190 and Annette Faulkner was third with a 188.

Bill Reynolds still holds high men's average with a 182. Jack Noe is second with a 177 and Jim Cromer, third, with a 172. Debbie Burg has high women's average at 163. Evelyn Mullins is second with a 162 and Alice Faulkner, third, at 151.



Rockcastle's Anthony Lewis drives for the basket in the Rockets loss at Laurel County last Friday night.

Brodhead Intramural Tournament Saturday morning

The opening round of Brodhead Elementary School's first intramural basketball tournament will be played Saturday beginning at 10 a.m.

The tournament field includes four teams in the 3rd- and 4th-grade bracket and eight teams in the 5th- and 6th-grade bracket. The semi-final and championship games will be played on Feb. 28.

In its second year of existence, Brodhead's intramural schedule coincided with the county's grade school season. All age groups, kindergarten through 6th grade, played on Saturdays and some games were scheduled the same night as grade school games.

"The advantage is that at this

age a kid who might not be able to bounce a basketball might be a starter in a few years," said Randall Adams, a coach of Brodhead's #1 team.

In the 3rd- and 4th-grade bracket, Broughtontown plays Brodhead (9 a.m.); and Tyler plays Brodhead (10 a.m.). In the 5th- and 6th-grade bracket, Broughtontown meets Brodhead #1 (11 a.m.); Tyner plays Brodhead

#2 (12 p.m.); Tyner plays McKinney (1 p.m.); and Brodhead #3 will play East Bernstadt (2 p.m.).

The coaches in the intramural program include Adams, Dale Scoggins, Gordon Pope, Nelson Graves, Clinton Graves and Larry Lafavers.

Admission for the tournament is \$1 for adults and 50 cents for children. All proceeds to back into the intramural program.