

# Rockets lose close game to Knox Central, 24-14

By: Doug Ponder

The Rockcastle County Rockets lost a close game to the Knox Central Panthers 24-14 last Friday night.

Last Friday night's game was also the sixth consecutive year the Panthers have defeated the Rockets in football.

The Panthers were first to get on the board with an 18 yard touchdown run by

All-State running back Johnathon Gist. The extra point attempt was no good giving them an early 6-0 lead.

But the Rockets struck back immediately on offense when junior running back Isaiah Adams punched the ball in from the one yard line for a touchdown. The extra point was good giving the Rockets the 7-6 lead near the end of the first quarter.

The Panthers answered on their next drive with a 5 yard touchdown strike from quarterback Matthew Barger to receiver Jared Hall. The two point conversion was no good but the Panther reclaimed the lead 12-7 at the end of the first quarter.

In the second quarter, Rocket senior quarterback Corey McPhetridge connected with senior receiver John Hughes with a 48 yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good putting the Rockets ahead 14-12.

However, the Panthers would score again before time expired in the second quarter as Barger scrambled in from seven yards out for a touchdown. The two point conversion was once again no good giving the Panthers an 18-14 lead at halftime.

The third quarter proved to be a defensive battle between the two teams as neither offense put any points on the board.

The Panthers put the game away in the fourth quarter with a three yard touchdown run by Jacob Mills. The extra point was no good making the final score 24-14.

Offensively, the Rockets were led by McPhetridge who was 16 out of 25 in pass attempts for 179 yards and one touchdown with one interception.

McPhetridge also had a big night rushing as he led the Rockets on the ground with 62 yards on thirteen carries. Other Rockets picking up rushing yardage were: Adams with 61 yards on fifteen carries and one touchdown; junior Chance Ansardi had 37 yards on eight carries and freshman Chayse McClure picked up 3 yards on one carry.

Hughes led the receiving corps with three receptions for 63 yards and one touchdown. Other Rockets making receptions were senior Tyler Harper with four receptions for 45 yards, McClure with two for 32 yards, Adams with three for 30 yards and senior Brandon Jones with four for 9 yards.

Defensively, the Rockets were led by Ansardi with ten tackles. Senior Jared Lake also had a big night defensively with eight tackles.

Other Rockets picking up tackles and assists were junior Kyle Denny with 7, Jones with 5, senior Koty Bengé and freshman Austin Mills had four each, McClure was credited with three tackles and one fumble recovery, Hughes and freshman Devon Robinson had three each and senior R.C. Kirby and Adams had two each. Freshman Logan Coffey, junior Austin Emery, freshman Lucas Jones and freshman Dalton Rowe were all credited with one tackle each.

Head Coach Scott Parkey said the difference in the game was not being able to score on their last offensive drive before halftime.

"McPhetridge ran 20 yards to their 20 yard line but as he was going down he fumbled the ball. The Panthers recovered it and marched down the field to score before halftime," Parkey said. "Instead of going into the half ahead 21-12, we were down 18-14. Getting a turnover instead of a touchdown put the guys in a different mindset for the second half."

Parkey said that he still believes the Rockets are showing improvement from the beginning of the year. He said the bad thing is the scoreboard still isn't showing how hard the Rockets are playing and how much they have improved.

"We had the momentum swing several times during the first half of the Knox Central game. We just didn't capitalize in the second half," Parkey said. "I'm still really pleased with how the guys played overall. They showed heart and played till the final horn."

The Rockets next game is this Friday when they host the Clay County Tigers at home during Senior Night

and the UNITE Bowl. Kick-off is at 7:30 p.m.

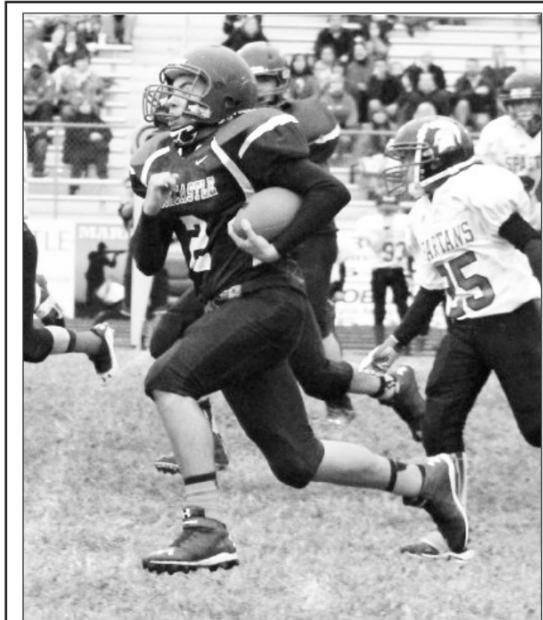
Parkey said the Tigers are not as big as they were last year due to losing most of their linemen to graduation.

"They lost a lot of their big guys but they still have a lot of skilled players. Their tailback is fast and elusive. He will be a big challenge for our defense," Parkey

said. "The Tigers are good against the run on defense so we need to mix it up in order to keep them off balance."



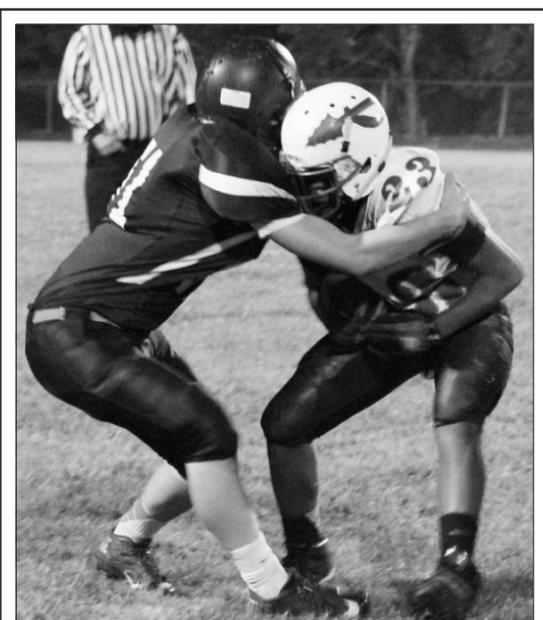
Seventh graders Jacob Stonekind and J.D. Hamilton take down a Caudill defender during last Thursday night's win against Caudill.



Evan Hendrickson breaks free for a touchdown run during the seventh grade Rockets 48-18 win against Caudill.



Seventh grade Rocket Jacob Hansel attempts to swat the ball away from a Caudill receiver during last Thursday night's game. The Rockets won 48-18



Eighth grader Dylan Messer slams a Clarke Moore defender to the ground during last Thursday night's shutout win.



Senior lineman Jared Lake makes a block during last Friday night's 24-14 loss to Knox Central. Lake and other seniors Brandon Jones, Corey McPhetridge, John Hughes, Tyler Harper, R.C. Kirby, Koty Bengé and Blaine Amyx will be honored before the game this Friday night. The senior night festivities will begin at 7 o'clock.



Junior fullback Chance Ansardi runs through a hole during last Friday night's game at Knox Central. The Rockets next game is this Friday when they host the Clay County Tigers at home during the UNITE Bowl. Kick-off is at 7:30 p.m.



Junior Isaiah Adams loses his helmet as he dives forward for more yardage during last Friday night's 24-14 loss to Knox Central. Adams rushed for 61 yards on 15 carries and one touchdown.



Senior quarterback Corey McPhetridge scrambles out of the pocket to pick up some extra yards in action at Knox Central last Friday. The Rocket offense was led by McPhetridge who was 16 out of 25 passing for 179 yards and one touchdown with one interception. McPhetridge also led the Rockets in rushing with 62 yards on 13 carries.



Brent Lovell gets around a Clarke Moore defender during the eighth grade Rockets 40-0 shutout win last Thursday night.