

LADY CAVS HANNAH-ILATE MCNAIRY; GUYS GRAB FIRST VICTORY



Above: Crockett senior Hannah Johnson went off against McNairy Central, netting 30 points as the Lady Cavs cruised 68-41. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Above: Rhett Butler drained a couple of threes and finished with nine points to help Crockett push past McNairy Central. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Senior Antuan Hobson, who earlier this week was named to play in the West Tennessee All-Star Football Classic, scored 16 points last night to pace Crockett to its first win. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

Game #1: Pound the ball into the paint.

Game #2: Spread the scoring around, from all angles.

Game #3: Crash the boards and find the hot hand.

Coach Kayla Irvin's Crockett girls have three victories now in three starts, all with differing offensive patterns, but deriving from the same basic approach: a relentless, hustling, team-boosting energy that so far has overcome whatever their opponents have thrown at them.

In Selmer Tuesday night, the Lady Cavs went to 3-0 on the season when senior Hannah Johnson exploded for 30 points as her teammates – crashing the boards for what Irvin called “an insane rebound margin” – grabbed carom after carom and fed her the ball. Johnson tallied 14 points in the first half as Crockett took a 32-21 lead, and then netted 12 in a red-hot third period in which Irvin's club dominated their hosts 22-6 and put the game away for good.

“We fought through some early foul trouble and had some amazing contributions off the bench,” Irvin said. “Our defensive intensity was so great tonight. The girls were everywhere. Hannah got in ‘one of her zones,’ as I call it. And she was fantastic! But it was equally awesome to watch the girls screen for her and find her intentionally in transition when she had the hot hand.”

Irvin, who said before the season began that she wasn't sure what kind of record this team would produce, but that it would scrap with anybody, has been pleasantly surprised with what she's seen thus far.

“I'm just loving watching them play the game so hard and so together,” she said. Switching topics, Irvin added, “We want to wish all the Cavalier fans a happy Thanksgiving. We are so thankful and love y'all.”

While Johnson's 30-point explosion was certainly noteworthy offensively, the Lady Cavs had other point producers. Jayden Maddox contributed eight, Sarah Cherry seven, Gabby Bursey six, Karlee Castellaw and Jordyn Maddox five each, Amaria Walker four, and Keeton Holyfield three. Lena Taylor paced McNairy with 17, while Neerajah Wade scored 11 and Bailee Shelton 10 for the hosts.

In the second game of the twin bill, Coach Rick Rudesill picked up his first triumph as the Cavaliers' mentor as Crockett used an 18-10 push in the final quarter to edge McNairy 45-41. Trailing the Bobcats 31-27 entering the fourth period, Antuan Hobson scored eight of his game-high 16 points and Lane Simmons added six more as the Cavs overcame the deficit. Zay Jones contributed a huge three-pointer during the crucial run as Crockett improved to 1-2 for the season.

Simmons backed Hobson's 16-point performance with 13 of his own, followed by Rhett Butler with nine, Jones with three, and Dre Walker and Amaron Hobson with two apiece. Crockett made a season-high six three-pointers in grabbing the victory.

Jabari Melton was the lone Bobcat in double figures with 13. McNairy fell to 0-3 on the season.

Both Crockett teams return home to battle Trenton Peabody on Tuesday night, November 28, with a 6:00 tip-off for the girls contest.

Tuesday, Nov. 21 at Selmer

CC Girls (68): Karlee Castellaw 2 1-2 5, Sarah Cherry 3 0-0 7, Gabby Bursey 3 0-0 6, Lanyah Cathey 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 0 0-2 0, Jordyn Maddox 2 0-0 5, Hannah Johnson 10 7-9 30, Keeton Holyfield 1 0-0 3, Halle Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 4 0-0 8, Torey Savage 0 0-0 0, Amaria Walker 2 0-2 4, **Team 27 8-15 68. 3-Ptrs:** Johnson 3, Cherry 1, Jordyn Maddox 1, Keeton Holyfield 1. **Record: 3-0.**

McNairy Central (41): Davidson 0 0-0 0, Renfro 0 0-0 0, Moore 1 0-0 3, B. Shelton 4 0-1 10, Gray 0 0-0 0, Wade 5 0-0 11, Harris 0 0-0 0, 6 1-2 17, Clayton 0 0-0 0, Lamberth 0 0-0 0, C. Shelton 0 0-0 0, Ricks 0 0-0 0, Bingham 0 0-0 0, **Team 16 1-3 41. 3-Ptrs:** Taylor 4, B. Shelton 2, Moore 1, Wade 1. **Record: 1-2.**

CC Boys (45): Grayson Lambert 0 0-0 0, Antuan Hobson 6 2-4 16, Rhett Butler 3 1-2 9, Preston Lambert 0 0-0 0, Lane Simmons 6 0-1 13, Amaron Hobson 1 0-0 2, Dre Walker 1 0-1 2, Xavier Jones 1 0-0 3, **Team 18 3-8 45. 3-Ptrs:** An. Hobson 2, Butler 2, Simmons 1, Jones 1. **Record: 1-2.**

McNairy Central (41): Plunk 0 0-0 0, Kirk 2 0-0 4, Clark 2 0-0 6, Johnston 2 1-3 5, Stone 3 0-0 9, McMahan 0 0-0 0, Sain 2 0-0 4, Allen 0 0-0 0, Melton 5 3-4 13, **Team 16 4-7 41. 3-Ptrs:** Stone 3, Clark 2. **Record: 0-3.**



Left: Jayden Maddox contributed eight points and helped create a large rebounding advantage in the Crockett victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)