

GOURLEY STEAL; FREE THROWS CAP CCMS WIN; BOYS FALL TO 5-5



Above: Crockett's Ruth Gourley (3), with teammates Sydney Smith and Lola Bailey looking on pensively in the background, lines up her game-winning free throw with 6.6 seconds left to down Union City 26-25 Monday night.



Above: After the final horn, Crockett's Wesley Thornton and Jentry Maddox embrace as (from left) teammates Ruth Gourley, Lola Bailey, Callie Freeman, and Blakelyn Edwards get ready to celebrate.

By Ron Barry

Sometimes when the offense just isn't clicking in basketball, you have to resort to a little thievery.

And that's just what Crockett County Middle School's Ruth Gourley did Monday night against Union City, producing two key steals in the final minute that led to three free throws which were just enough to pace her Lady Cavs to a 26-25 come-from-behind victory.

It was the third straight victory for Coach Jamar Turner's club, which lost six of its first seven games but now stands at 4-6. It wouldn't have happened if Gourley hadn't come up with a couple of pickpocket moves after Union City entered the game's final minute with a 24-23 lead.

The visitors were moving the ball around the perimeter, perfectly content to try to run out the clock if they could, but Gourley stepped in and swiped the ball from Union City's Sophie Palmer near the right top of the key and took off for the Crockett basket, being fouled by Alli McMillan with 42.2 seconds left.

Gourley made both free throws to push the Lady Cavs ahead 25-24. Union City tied it back up at 25-all with 13.5 seconds remaining when Addy Launer made one of two free throws after being fouled by Crockett. When she missed the second one, her teammates managed to come up with the rebound, but Gourley snuck it again and pulled it away, giving the Lady Cavs possession.

This time she was fouled with 6.6 seconds on the clock, and drilled the first free throw to give Crockett a 26-25 advantage. While she missed the second one, the Lady Cavs never gave Union City a good look at the basket on the opposite end and time expired on a desperation shot.

Turner's squad jumped to a quick 11-4 edge in the first period with five of the points produced by Wesley Thornton, but the Lady Cavs had trouble after that developing much of an attack. Finally, in the fourth quarter, leading scorer Jentry Maddox knocked in a key three-pointer and then another basket to keep the hosts within a point of the lead before Gourley stole the game away.

Maddox finished with 11 and Gourley eight for the winners. Thornton had five and Sydney Smith two for Crockett, while McKinley Dean paced Union City with 10.

In the boys game that followed, three points usually means a good thing in basketball – but not when it describes your leading scorer.

Nobody on the Crockett roster could net more than three tallies in the entire contest as Union City ran away with a 51-25 triumph. The game was never close as the visitors received 22 points from Hollister Johnson and another 13 from Will Kail in completely dominating the Cavs, who dropped to 5-5 for the season.

Max Woods, George Randall, Daniel Morgan, Whit O'Quin, and Cason Reynolds all had three points for Crockett. Carson Webb, Carter Wren, Brody Haley, Jeremiah Young, and Christian Buchanan added two apiece for the Cavs.

Both Crockett squads travel to Martin Thursday night for another doubleheader. High school play resumes tonight (Tuesday) as the Crockett teams host Trenton, with the Lady Cavs tipping it off at 6:00.

Monday, Nov. 27 at Alamo

CC Girls (26): Jentry Maddox 11, Ruth Gourley 8, Wesley Thornton 5, Sydney Smith 2, Callie Freeman 0, Addie Hoover 0, Skyleigh Qualls 0, Lola Bailey 0, Blakelyn Edwards 0, **5 FG, 3 3-P, 7-12 FT. 3-Ptrs:** Thornton 1, Maddox 1, Gourley 1. **Record: 4-6.**
Union City (25): Dean 10, Launder 7, Morgan 4, Ross 3, McMillan 1, Palmer 0, **8 FG, 0 3-P, 9-14 FT. 3-Ptrs:** None.

CC Boys (25): Max Woods 3, George Randall 3, Daniel Morgan 3, Whit O'Quin 3, Cason Reynolds 3, Carson Webb 2, Carter Wren 2, Brody Haley 2, Jeremiah Young 2, Christian Buchanan 2, DJ Forrest 0, Chance Johnson 0, Jett Johnson 0, Trevor Willis 0, Davis Porter 0, Cole Summar 0, Taby Lewis 0, Jameson Bushart 0, Ittai Fry 0, **7 FG, 3 3-P, 2-9 FT. 3-Ptrs:** Reynolds 1, Morgan 1, Randall 1. **Record: 5-5.**

Union City (51): Hollister Johnson 22, Will Kail 13, Kaden Robinson 6, Zaven Thompson 4, Malakii Richardson 3, Kylan Fuller 2, Braysen Smith 1, **16 FG, 4 3-P, 7-11 FT. 3-Ptrs:** Kail 3, Richardson 1.



Left: Crockett's Wesley Thornton races upcourt after snaring a rebound as Coach Jamar Turner looks on behind her in last night's win over Union City.



Above: Crockett's Jentry Maddox hit this huge three-pointer in the fourth quarter to keep the Lady Cavs close down the stretch Monday night.



Left: The Lady Cavs' Callie Freeman (left) wrestles for control of the ball with Union City's Addy Launer (23) in first-half action Monday night.

Below: Daniel Morgan was one of the Cavs who managed to score three points last night in a game completely dominated by Union City.

Below: In the boys game, Crockett's Carson Webb (0) splits the Union City defense and looks for a pass recipient in first-half action last night.

