

CHERRY BOMBS HELP LADY CAVS ROLL; FOUR BAD MINUTES DOOM BOYS



Above: Sarah Cherry brings the ball upcourt in front of the Crockett County logo in Tuesday night's win over Trenton Peabody.



Above: Dre Walker sets to launch an outside shot as Coach Rick Rudesill (right) watches from the bench area.

By Ron Barry

For as long as she's been playing basketball, Crockett County's Sarah Cherry has always deferred to other shooters, content to just help them get the ball in their hands.

But now that she's a senior, Cherry has been given a clear message by Coach Kayla Irvin: "I need you to shoot the ball!"

That's one of the reasons another big smile was plastered across Irvin's face after Tuesday night's 60-45 win over Trenton Peabody. Cherry had drilled four three-pointers – including three in a row during Crockett's key third-quarter run – and totaled 18 points for the night as the Lady Cavs gained their fourth consecutive triumph in as many starts.

"Sarah played such a fantastic all-around game for us tonight," Irvin said after the contest. "I know she was exhausted by the end. She handled the ball a lot of the time, she rebounded, she played tough defense – but when she starts taking shots, our team's a lot better. And when she isn't missing from outside, and makes four – then she isn't shooting enough!"

But Cherry was no one-girl team against Peabody, a scrappy, full-court pressing team that plays physically and is constantly coming at you. Crockett senior Hannah Johnson – who was knocked to the floor several times during the contest – netted 17 points. Junior Amaria Walker added 12 and blocked several shots. Senior Jayden Maddox had six points but grabbed a boatload of rebounds. Karlee Castellaw scored three and provided ballhandling help to Cherry to beat the Golden Tide press.

"Trenton is a good team for us to play right now because this is the type of game we will face when we get down to elimination time at the end of the season," Irvin said. "Tonight we got in some early foul trouble and had to use some lineups that weren't used to playing with each other a whole lot, so I'm pleased with how we handled it. We need to cut down on our turnovers, but I'm proud of the way the girls battled and supported each other."

Crockett outscored Trenton in every quarter, even after starting the game in an 8-3 hole after the first couple of minutes. But the hosts pulled even at 8-all with 3:33 to play in the first, and slowly built a 35-24 advantage as Johnson tallied 13 of her 17 points in the first two periods.

Peabody's Travia Brooks had 11 in the first half but didn't score again as the Lady Cav defense stiffened after the intermission. Meanwhile, Cherry bombed three straight treys in the third stanza as Crockett moved to a 49-37 advantage and then held off every attempt at a Golden Tide run in the fourth.

In the second game of the doubleheader, Crockett's boys – after battling to a virtual standoff in the first quarter, trailing 12-11 – were blitzed in the first two minutes of the second period to fall behind by 11, and spent the rest of the evening trying to catch up.

The Cavs got within 26-24 on a Lane Simmons basket with 2:39 left in the opening half, but then allowed the visitors to stretch it out to 12 by the break. The entire second half floated in that double-digit range until the final horn sounded with Peabody on top 69-55.

The game was largely a wide-open affair, with both teams accumulating more turnovers than a bakery. Peabody handled the ball better over the long haul, however, and that was the difference in the contest.

Simmons paced the Crockett offense with 17 points. Rhett Butler nailed three three-pointers and scored 15 overall. Antuan Hobson had eight and Dre Walker seven for the Cavs, who dropped to 1-3 for the season with the defeat. Emmanuel Cannon tallied 18 and Thomas Luten 14 for the Golden Tide, who evened their record at 2-2.

Both Crockett teams host Chester County Friday night before traveling to Humboldt Saturday evening for another twin bill.



Above: Lane Simmons nets the easiest two of his game-high 17 points last night, but the Cavs fell to Peabody 69-55.

Tuesday, Nov. 28 at Alamo

CC Girls (60): Karlee Castellaw 0 3-4 3, Sarah Cherry 7 0-0 18, Gabby Bursey 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 0 2-2 2, Jordyn Maddox 1 0-0 2, Hannah Johnson 6 4-4 17, Halle Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 3 0-0 6, Amaria Walker 4 4-7 12, **Team 21 13-17 60. 3-Ptrs:** Cherry 4, Johnson 1. **Record: 4-0.**

Trenton Peabody (45): Travia Brooks 4 3-6 11, Myricle Johnson 3 4-4 10, Nyasia Luten 4 0-2 9, Anyah Ross 2 2-2 7, Jamiya Carter 0 3-4 3, Montiera Clift 0 3-4 3, Paislee Walls 1 0-0 2, **Team 14 15-22 45. 3-Ptrs:** Luten 1, Ross 1. **Record: 2-2.**

CC Boys (55): Grayson Lambert 0 0-0 0, Antuan Hobson 4 0-0 8, Rhett Butler 4 4-4 15, Preston Lambert 2 0-1 4, Lane Simmons 7 3-6 17, Amaron Hobson 2 0-0 4, Karsen Burgess 0 0-0 0, Corey Savage 0 0-0 0, Dre Walker 1 5-10 7, Xavier Jones 0 0-0 0, **Team 20 12-21 55. 3-Ptrs:** Butler 3. **Record: 1-3.**

Trenton Peabody (69): Thomas Luten 5 2-2 14, Emmanuel Cannon 6 3-4 18, Je'Melvin Brooks 2 0-0 4, Ryder Patterson 4 4-4 12, Zay Jelks 3 3-6 9, Onterio Agnew 1 0-0 2, Jaquan Kinney 0 0-0 0, Alan Torres 0 0-0 0, Zay Skinner 2 0-1 4, Jackson Lucas 0 0-0 0, Jamarcus Haynes 2 2-2 6, **Team 25 14-19 69. 3-Ptrs:** Cannon 3, Luten 2. **Record: 2-2.**



Left: As Sarah Cherry (3) draws three Golden Tide defenders, she gets ready to whip a pass to Hannah Johnson (14) for an easy lay-in.

Below: Grayson Lambert (00) searches for an open teammate as Peabody administers its pressing defense.



Above: Karlee Castellaw points toward her defensive assignment to communicate with a teammate in last night's win over Peabody.



Above: Jayden Maddox (22), who was all over the boards for Crockett last night, clears an offensive rebound back out to teammate Charity Greenhill.



Above: Jordyn Maddox prepares to battle for a possible rebound as a teammate shoots a free throw in last night's win over Peabody.



Above: Hannah Johnson nets two of her 17 points as Amaria Walker rolls to the basket as a potential option.



Left: In an extremely physical contest, Cherry found herself knocked to the floor a time or two, but got up to score 18 points.

Right: Antuan Hobson (1) looks for space to operate as Peabody bolsters its inside defense.

