

FREE THROW ACCURACY BOOSTS LADY CAVS; CHESTER COUNTY DOWNS BOYS



Above: Karlee Castellaw made 8-of-10 free throws, including three in the final period, and finished with 11 points in Crockett's win.



Above: Hannah Johnson's two free throws with five seconds left (and 7-for-7 in the game, on the way to 26 points) gave Crockett a 48-46 win over Chester County Friday night.



Above: Kevin Pledge was the lone Cavalier player in double figures with 13 points as Chester County downed Crockett's boys 76-54.

By Ron Barry

When the game was on the line, the line was very good for Crockett County's Lady Cavaliers.

Fighting to remain unbeaten in five starts, Coach Kayla Irvin's scrappy squad drilled eight of nine free throws in the final quarter to overcome a deficit and edge Chester County 48-46 Friday night in Alamo.

In the boys game that followed, the visiting Eagles bombed eight three-pointers on their way to downing Crockett's guys 76-54, gaining their fourth victory in as many starts.

But the evening's opener had all the drama a fan could want. The Lady Cavs came in at 4-0, while Chester County was 3-1; both teams were coached by former Union University collegiate stars, Irvin for Crockett and Lee Nunamaker Pipkin for the Lady Eagles; and both teams displayed players who will in all probability gain post-season honors.

It all boiled down to a 46-46 deadlock with five seconds remaining, when Crockett's Hannah Johnson calmly netted a pair of free throws to push the Lady Cavs up by two. Irvin called timeout to set up a defense designed to keep Chester County from advancing the ball quickly upcourt.

On the ensuing inbound play, the defense caught a Lady Eagle ballhandler in the corner with a quick trap and forced her to try to bounce the ball off a Crockett player. But quick-handed Sarah Cherry corralled the attempt and dribbled out the remaining time on the clock to seal the triumph.

Chester County had entered the final period with a 37-35 advantage after Jariyah Williamson and JuJu Prather combined for 17 points in the third quarter to offset an 11-point stanza by Crockett's Johnson. But in the fourth, Johnson poured in eight more of her game-high 26 points and drilled all four of her ice-veined free throws. Junior teammate Karlee Castellaw added three big points from the line in the period and converted eight of 10 in the game, tallying 11 points overall. Amaria Walker nailed both of her free throws down the stretch, and the Lady Cavs escaped with the win on a night when Irvin said they made "too many mistakes, but we learned a lot about ourselves too."

The boys game was effectively over after Chester County dropped a 23-10 third-quarter edge on the Cavs, after already leading by 11 at halftime. Doing most of the damage was Chance Thompson, who drained five threes in the middle periods alone on his way to 19 points, and Chad Barham, who finished with 18 for the Eagles.

Crockett was led by Kevin Pledge with 13 points, although seven came in the suspenseless final period. Grayson Lambert and Antuan Hobson had eight points each, and Amari Hobson added six. The Cavs' usual main point producers - Lane Simmons, Rhett Butler, and Dre Walker - were held to a combined nine points in the defeat.

Both Crockett teams are in action again Saturday night (tonight) in a doubleheader at Humboldt.

Friday, Dec. 1 at Alamo

CC Girls (48): Karlee Castellaw 1 8-10 11, Sarah Cherry 2 0-0 4, Gabby Burse 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 1 0-0 2, Jordyn Maddox 0 0-0 0, Hannah Johnson 8 7-7 26, Halle Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 0 0-0 0, Amaria Walker 1 3-6 5, **Team 13 18-23 48. 3-Ptrs:** Johnson 3, Castellaw 1. **Record: 5-0.**

Chester Co (46): Jariyah Williamson 5 3-8 16, Brooke Ketchum 1 2-2 4, Jena Melton 3 2-2 8, Karley Heinsohn 0 0-0 0, Daisy McManus 1 0-0 3, JuJu Prather 3 5-8 11, Ally Campbell 2 0-0 4, **Team 15 12-20 46. 3-Ptrs:** Williamson 3, McManus 1. **Record: 3-2.**

CC Boys (54): Grayson Lambert 4 0-1 8, Antuan Hobson 3 2-2 8, Rhett Butler 0 2-2 2, Preston Lambert 1 0-2 2, Lane Simmons 2 0-0 4, Amari Hobson 2 2-2 6, Davian Green 2 0-0 4, Corey Savage 0 0-0 0, Dre Walker 1 0-0 3, Kevin Pledge 6 1-1 13, Xavier Jones 1 2-2 4, **Team 22 9-12 54. 3-Ptrs:** Walker 1. **Record: 1-4.**

Chester Co (76): Latavious Barham 0 0-0 0, Andre Joy 0 0-0 0, Aiden Welch 7 1-3 15, Jayden Williams 1 0-0 2, Payton Barham 1 0-0 2, Jayce Goff 0 0-0 0, Chance Thompson 6 2-3 19, Christian Halford 0 0-0 0, Chase Garner 0 0-0 0, Jaylen Edgeston 0 0-0 0, Hunt Pipkin 2 0-0 5, Hunter McLemore 2 1-2 5, Armarie Massengill 5 0-0 10, Chad Barham 6 4-5 18, **Team 30 8-13 76. 3-Ptrs:** Thompson 5, C. Barham 2, Pipkin 1. **Record: 4-0.**