

# FRENZIED GAMES END IN TWO DEFEATS FOR CROCKETT BASKETBALL



**Above:** Senior Jayden Maddox glances up at the scoreboard during a lineup for a free throw attempt in the contest with Peabody.

## By Ron Barry

Former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden – who won more national championships than any other coach at the college level – used to encourage his players to “be quick, but don’t hurry.”

Tuesday night’s doubleheader between Crockett County and Trenton Peabody would have driven him insane.

The theme for both games appeared to be “hurry, hurry, and then hurry some more!” as multiple turnovers and frenzied pacing turned out to be the downfall for both Crockett clubs as the Peabody boys prevailed 60-49 and the Golden Tide girls eked out a 60-54 triumph.

Hustle and effort were not the problems for the Cavalier squads. Instead, the physical play and fast pacing of the Peabody teams lured the Crockett units into multiple mistakes, unwise fouls, and a general lack of poise down the stretch in each game.

Coach Rick Rudesill’s Cavs actually played their best first half of the season in racing to a 17-8 first-quarter advantage behind a seven-point output from Rhett Butler and a six-point contribution from Lane Simmons, and used five points by Dre Walker in the second period to hold a 28-21 lead at the intermission. The edge had actually increased to 12 at one point (27-15) after a Butler three-pointer with 2:10 left in the second, but the Golden Tide began closing the gap shortly thereafter.



**Above:** Lane Simmons dove for another loose ball that was picked up by Peabody’s Ryder Patterson (10), who then faced getting past Zay Jones (25) and Dre Walker (23).

In the third stanza, it only took Peabody three minutes to draw within a point (32-31), but then Simmons knocked down a pair of baskets on his way to a 10-point quarter and pushed Crockett back up to a 40-33 margin with two minutes remaining, and the Cavs appeared to be on their way to an upset over the homestanding Tide.

Over the next stunning five minutes and 11 seconds, Peabody went on an incredible 19-0 run as Crockett’s ballhandling completely disintegrated. Suddenly the Tide was up 52-40 as the Cavs didn’t score again until Walker knocked in a short jumper with 4:12 left to play in the game.

It didn’t help Crockett’s cause that the Cavs missed an alarming 11 of 16 free throws as they fell to 1-6 on the season. Simmons was the steadiest performer, netting 21 points. Walker added 15 and Butler 10. Emmanuel Cannon sparked Trenton with 16 points, supported by Thomas Luten with 13 and Jamarcus Haynes, who scored eight of his 12 points during the 19-point run.

In the girls game, there was a lot of running up and down the floor, with both teams hustling and giving great effort. What wasn’t taking place was actual defense – all either team’s players had to do to run past their defender was to try. As in the boys contest, the results were often sloppy fouls and wayward passes.

Coach Kayla Irvin’s team was handcuffed almost immediately when the team’s most dependable ballhandler – senior point guard Sarah Cherry – was whistled for fouls on two consecutive possessions in the first quarter. Irvin elected to try to preserve her for the second half, and the Lady Cavs managed to stay within 34-29 at the break on the strength of seven first-period points by Karlee Castellaw and six second-stanza tallies by Hannah Johnson.

Peabody’s lead grew as high as nine points in the third, however, but Crockett chipped it back to 53-50 with 4:52 remaining in the contest and cut it to three again (57-54) on a Cherry bucket with 53 seconds to go. But when leading scorer Johnson fouled out 13 seconds later, and the Tide’s Nyasia Luten drained a pair of free throws, the Lady Cavs were doomed to their first loss of the season after a 6-0 start.

Johnson finished with 17 points and Castellaw 13 for Crockett, with Amaria Walker adding 10. The Lady Cavs made only seven of 15 free throws, but it wasn’t the difference in the game. Peabody was even worse, wasting 14 of their 24 tries. Myricle Johnson netted 20 points for the winners, who made eight three-pointers to Crockett’s three. Jamyra Carter scored 15 for the Golden Tide, who are now 4-3 on the year.

Both Crockett teams return to action Saturday night in Brownsville against Haywood.

**Tuesday, Dec. 5 at Trenton**

**CC Girls (54):** Karlee Castellaw 4 3-6 13, Sarah Cherry 3 0-2 7, Gabby Bursey 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 0 1-3 1, Jordyn Maddox 2 0-0 4, Hannah Johnson 7 3-4 17, Halle Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 1 0-0 2, Amaria Walker 5 0-0 10, **Team 22 7-15 54. 3-Ptrs:** Castellaw 2, Cherry 1. **Record: 6-1.**

**Peabody (60):** Myricle Johnson 8 2-6 20, Travia Brooks 10-2 2, Jamyra Carter 6 0-0 15, Montierra Cliff 1 0-0 3, Nyasia Luten 1 3-10 5, Anyah Ross 2 5-6 11, Paislee Walls 2 0-0 4, Zakaysia Skinner 0 0-0 0, **Team 21 10-24 60. 3-Ptrs:** Carter 3, Johnson 2, Ross 2, Cliff 1. **Record: 4-3.**

**CC Boys (49):** Grayson Lambert 0 0-4 0, Antuan Hobson 0 2-4 2, Rhett Butler 4 0-0 10, Preston Lambert 0 0-0 0, Lane Simmons 9 2-4 21, Amaron Hobson 0 1-2 1, Dre Walker 7 0-0 15, Xavier Jones 0 0-2 0, **Team 20 5-16 49. 3-Ptrs:** Butler 2, Simmons 1, Walker 1. **Record: 1-6.**

**Peabody (60):** Emmanuel Cannon 5 4-4 16, Thomas Luten 5 0-0 13, Zay Jelks 0 2-4 2, Ryder Patterson 4 0-2 9, Jemelvin Brooks 2 0-0 5, Zay Skinner 0 0-0 0, Jamarcus Haynes 4 4-6 12, Jackson Lucas 1 1-1 3, Cordell McFields 0 0-0 0, Onterio Agnew 0 0-0 0, Camari Bonds 0 0-0 0, **Team 21 11-17 60. 3-Ptrs:** Luten 3, Cannon 2, Patterson 1, Brooks 1. **Record: 5-2.**



**Left:** The frenzied pace of Tuesday night's game is seen here as Lady Cav point guard Sarah Cherry tries to race the ball upcourt against Peabody's relentless press.

**Below:** Ava North-Hall tries to cheer the Cavaliers through Peabody's 19-0 second-half run, but the look of disbelief on her face tells the stunning story.



**Above:** Grayson Lambert, Crockett's quarterback during the football season, probably felt right at home in last night's rough-and-tumble duel with Peabody as he wrestles for a loose ball in the second quarter.



**Above:** Charity Greenhill (12) tries to apply some pressure to Trenton's backcourt in the final quarter of Tuesday night's game.



**Above:** Jordyn Maddox (13) looks for a teammate in the corner as the Golden Tide press closes in.



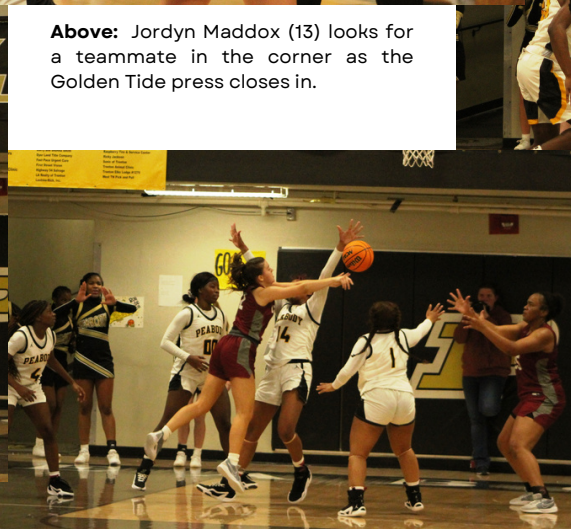
**Above:** Senior Hannah Johnson gets a rare open look on her way to a team-high 17 points against Peabody.



**Above:** Crockett's Rhett Butler (3) takes off with a rebound as teammate Dre Walker (foreground) signals that he's ahead of the pack for a layup; Butler found him with a pass and Walker netted two of his 15 points.



**Above:** Antuan Hobson deflected this pass with his knee as the ball flies up and almost goes in the basket. Amaron Hobson (12) is defending at the left.



**Left:** Karlee Castellaw finds open teammate Amaria Walker underneath the basket for an assist in the final period of Crockett's duel with Peabody. Castellaw had 13 points in the game.