

CHESTER COUNTY EDGES LADY CAVS FOR HUB TITLE; BOYS DOWNED BY JCM



Above: Lady Cav senior Hannah Johnson (14) tries to drive past Jariyah Williamson (1) of Chester County, who was named the HUB Classic MVP. Johnson was selected to the All-Tournament Team.



Above: Crockett's Charity Greenhill (12) is diving for this loose ball while teammate Jayden Maddox (22) is getting ready to join her, because the ball rolled near the sideline until Maddox eventually corralled it.

By Ron Barry

Sometimes even a team known for its comeback wins can dig too deep a hole to crawl out of.

Such was the case for the Crockett County Lady Cavaliers in the championship game of the HUB Classic in Jackson Saturday, when they allowed Chester County to grab a 15-point halftime advantage by having their most anemic offensive showing of the season.

Crockett's girls managed just 13 total points in the entire first half as their basket seemed to have the proverbial lid on it, while Chester County's Jariyah Williamson matched that amount all by her lonesome. And even though the Lady Cavs won the second half 24-14, they couldn't get more than one crucial shot to fall over the final 1:41 as the Eaglettes held on for a 42-37 victory.

It was Chester's second win in three tries against Crockett and boosted its season record to 13-2. The Lady Cavs fell to 11-4 with the defeat.

Coach Lee Pipkin's Eaglettes jumped to a 6-1 lead - ironically, the eventual margin of victory - although Crockett cut the deficit to 11-8 when freshman Jordyn Maddox canned a three-ball with five seconds left in the opening quarter.

But the second period was a nightmare for Coach Kayla Irvin's club as Williamson netted nine of her game-high 16 points and Chester County captured the quarter 17-5. The 15-point halftime edge remained until 19 seconds were left in the third stanza, when Maddox zipped in a three-pointer to send Crockett into the fourth down 37-25.

The Lady Cavs held Chester to one point for the next six minutes, but only scored four points themselves until Sarah Cherry knocked down a shot to make it 38-31 with 1:59 to go. After a steal, Crockett's Hannah Johnson drilled a three-pointer to make it 38-34 with 1:41 remaining.

But the Eaglettes' JuJu Prather snaked her way into the lane for a layup with 56 seconds to go and then, after a Crockett miss, Ally Williams netted two free throws to push the margin back to eight with only 24.9 seconds to play. Maddox converted an "ad-one" three-point play with 15 seconds left to complete the scoring.

Johnson - the only player in Crockett's lineup to score more than three points in any one quarter - led the Lady Cavs with 11 for the game, followed by nine from Maddox. Cherry had seven and Amaria Walker six as Irvin's squad just never found any rhythm offensively.

Crockett's boys played in a consolation game Saturday in the same tournament, dropping a 59-55 decision to previously winless Jackson Central-Merryas they again climbed aboard the turnover bus for a stretch and allowed JCM to pull off a 13-0 run in the second quarter.

Even then, Coach Rick Rudesill's Cavs to lead 33-27 at the half on the strength of a pair of late threes from Lane Simmons and a Grayson Lambert layin.

JCM, riding the hot left hand of BJ Ballard, cut that lead to one by the end of the third period and then turned up the defense a notch in the final stanza, shutting out Crockett's two top scorers - Simmons and Antuan Hobson - for the entire eight minutes. Meanwhile, Ballard - an inspiring player who performs despite extremely limited mobility with his right arm - finished with 22 points, including six-for-six from the free throw line down the stretch.

Crockett's final lead came after a three by Demo Pickens with 5:44 to go, but the Cougars outscored the Cavs 12-7 from that point on.

Hobson had 14 points and Simmons 13 to pace the Crockett offense, with Dre Walker adding seven, Demo Pickens six, and Kevin Pledge five. The Cavs are now 2-13.

Both Crockett teams resume play on Thursday, January 4 in a road doubleheader at Gibson County. They host McNairy Central in a twin bill the following night.

Saturday, Dec. 30 at Jackson

CC Girls (37): Karlee Castellaw 0 2-4 2, Sarah Cherry 2 2-2 7, Gabby Burse 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 0 0-0 0, Jordyn Maddox 3 1-1 9, Hannah Johnson 5 0-0 11, Halle Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 1 0-0 2, Amaria Walker 2 2-3 6, **Team 13 7-10 37. 3-Ptrs:** Jor. Maddox 2, Cherry 1, Johnson 1. **Record: 11-4.**

Chester County (42): Jariyah Williamson 6 3-4 16, Brooke Ketchum 1 2-4 4, Jena Melton 1 0-0 2, Karley Heinsohn 0 0-0 0, Daisy McManus 5 0-2 13, JuJu Prather 1 0-4 2, Ally Campbell 1 3-4 5, **Team 15 8-18 42. 3-Ptrs:** McManus 3, Williamson 1. **Record: 13-2.**

CC Boys (55): Grayson Lambert 1 1-2 3, Antuan Hobson 6 1-2 14, Jayden Frye 1 0-0 3, Preston Lambert 0 0-0 0, Lane Simmons 5 1-2 13, Amarion Hobson 1 0-0 2, Davian Green 0 0-0 0, Dre Walker 3 1-1 7, Kevin Pledge 13-4 5, Zay Jones 1 0-0 2, Demo Pickens 2 0-0 6, **Team 21 7-11 55. 3-Ptrs:** Pickens 2, Simmons 2, An. Hobson 1, Frye 1. **Record: 2-13.**

Jackson Central-Merry (59): Kameron Myles 3 2-6 8, BJ Ballard 8 6-6 22, Jadin Springfield 0 0-0 0, Jordan McCullough 0 0-0 0, Jayden Sampson 3 0-0 9, Nathan Graham 2 0-1 4, Danny McNeal 3 4-5 10, Landon Braswell 0 0-0 0, Jayland Eckford 3 0-1 6, **Team 22 12-19 59. 3-Ptrs:** Sampson 3. **Record: 1-13.**

Right: Crockett's Gabby Burse looks for an open teammate while Chester County coach Lee Pipkin provides defensive guidance in the background.



Left: Lady Cav guard Karlee Castellaw (2) drives past Chester County's Daisy McManus and was fouled as she attempted her shot.



Left: Crockett freshman Jordyn Maddox, who scored nine points in the championship game, is triple-teamed by the Eaglettes on this play near the basket.

Right: Cavalier senior Lane Simmons (11) goes sailing through the air for a lay-in against JCM in a game in which he scored 13 points.



Right: Antuan Hobson (1) was Crockett's top scorer against JCM with a 14-point performance.



Left: Demo Pickens (34) snakes in for a lay-up as Cav teammates Grayson Lambert (00) and Davian Green (15) look for rebounding position if needed.

