

CROCKETT GIRLS GAIN HUB CLASSIC CHAMPIONSHIP BIRTH; BOYS FALL TO NORTH SIDE



Above: Hannah Johnson (14) and Charity Greenhill (12) race upcourt on a fast break as Crockett blitzed Liberty Tech 63-17 in the HUB Classic. Johnson led all scorers with 17.



Above: One of four Sarah Cherry "Cherry Bombs" leaves the launch pad as the senior point guard tallied 16 points vs. Liberty.

By Ron Barry

The first time they played, it was a one-possession game at the end – Crockett County won. The second time they played, it was a one-possession game at the end – Chester County won.

Each team won on its home court. They're as even as two teams could be, seemingly.

Saturday at 5:30, we'll find out which one will prevail on a neutral court as the two clash again, this time for the championship of the HUB Classic at Liberty Tech.

Chester County got into the final by besting Trinity Christian Academy 31-18 Friday. Crockett made it by absolutely destroying Liberty Tech 63-17, despite Coach Kayla Irvin giving the majority of the playing time to her reserves.

But before she did, her top seven – the starters and the instant-energy Maddox sisters – did a pile of damage to the Liberty Tech psyche. The score was 17-5 before many fans had even settled into their seats, and by halftime it was 47-15. Sarah Cherry drilled four Cherry Bombs on her way to 16 points, and Hannah Johnson accumulated 17 tallies with five buckets and seven free throws.

Irvin's club, which saw 12 players score in an opening-round pounding of Jackson North Side, had 10 get into the points column in this one. Lanyah Cathey buried a couple of threes in the fourth quarter for six points, backing Johnson and Cherry. Karlee Castellaw added five – all in the first half; Jayden Maddox and Alice Luten netted four apiece; Gabby Bursey, Jordyn Maddox, and Amaria Walker scored three each; and Torey Savage contributed two.

For the second straight game – albeit with a running clock because of Crockett's margin – the Lady Cavs didn't allow their opponent to score in the final period.

"I just love how this team continues to share the ball and pull for one another, no matter who's on the floor," Irvin said. The Lady Cavs are now 11-3 for the season.

The Crockett boys – who have played one of the toughest schedules in West Tennessee – took another one on the chin from 10-2 North Side, falling to the Indians 60-44 after giving them a scare by the halftime break. A long three-pointer at the buzzer by Antuan Hobson banked into the netting, bringing the Cavaliers to within 32-26.

A layup by Crockett's Lane Simmons opened the third quarter to make it 32-28, but less than a minute later the Cavaliers were behind by 10 as North Side made some steals off its press and bagged a pair of treys. Three minutes after that, the margin was 48-33 and the winners weren't challenged seriously again.

North Side's talented Lincoln Woods was the star of the show, piling up 27 points. Crockett's leading scorers were Simmons and Jayden Frye with eight apiece, followed by Hobson and Kevin Pledge with seven each and Demo Pickens with six.

Crockett's guys, now 2-12 on the year, will face JCM Saturday at 4:00 in a HUB Classic consolation game prior to the girls championship tilt.

Friday, Dec. 29 at Jackson

CC Girls (63): Chloe Adkisson 0 0-0 0, Karlee Castellaw 2 0-0 5, Sarah Cherry 6 0-0 16, Gabby Burse 1 0-0 3, Lanyah Cathey 2 0-0 6, Audrey Whitby 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 0 0-0 0, Jordyn Maddox 1 0-0 3, Hannah Johnson 5 7-8 17, Keeton Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Halle Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Deonna Cole 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 2 0-0 4, Alice Luten 2 0-0 4, Torey Savage 1 0-0 2, Amaria Walker 0 3-4 3, Ellie Henderson 0 0-0 0, **Team 22 10-12 63. 3-Ptrs:** Cherry 4, Cathey 2, Castellaw 1, Burse 1, Jor. Maddox 1. **Record: 11-3.**

Liberty Tech (17): Cierra Jennings 0 0-0 0, Sydnee Cole 4 1-2 10, Araiya Stewart 1 0-0 3, Carriyah Hull 1 0-2 2, NiLiya Minard 1 0-0 2, Harmony Williams 0 0-0 0, Jakylea Robinson 0 0-0 0, Yesmin Calixto 0 0-0 0, Aniya Cowden 0 0-0 0, Charlysia Office 0 0-0 0, **Team 7 1-4 17. 3-Ptrs:** Cole 1, Stewart 1. **Record: 3-6.**

CC Boys (44): Antuan Hobson 3 0-2 7, Jayden Frye 3 2-2 8, Preston Lambert 0 0-0 0, Lane Simmons 3 2-2 8, Amarion Hobson 2 0-0 4, Dre Walker 1 0-1 2, Kevin Pledge 3 1-2 7, Zay Jones 1 0-0 2, Demo Pickens 2 1-2 6, **Team 18 6-11 44. 3-Ptrs:** Pickens 1, An. Hobson 1. **Record: 2-12.**

Jackson North Side (60): Brennan Rogers 0 0-0 0, AJ Currie 3 0-0 9, Lincoln Woods 10 4-6 27, Markaylan Kelly 1 0-0 3, Joseph Marshall 3 0-3 6, Zekai Hill 0 0-0 0, Zetarrious Coleman 2 0-0 5, Jashon Cole 0 1-2 1, Tramel Jones 1 0-0 2, Javonte Smith 3 0-0 6, Chris Reid 0 1-2 1, **Team 23 6-13 60. 3-Ptrs:** Woods 3, Currie 3, Kelly 1, Coleman 1. **Record: 10-2.**



Above: Crockett's boys had no answer for North Side's Lincoln Woods, who drilled 27 points in a 60-44 Indian win. Here, Amarion Hobson (12), Antuan Hobson (1), and Jayden Frye (back left) are all lined up, but can't stop him.



Left: The Cavs' Dre Walker takes a tumble trying to avoid the relentless defensive pressure applied by North Side.