

# MADDOX SISTERS MAKING POSITIVE IMPACT; CROCKETT SPLITS WITH FAYETTE-WARE



**Above:** When not actually out on the floor together in the game, the two Maddox sisters can often be seen side-by-side on the bench, comparing notes and keeping each other motivated.

## By Ron Barry

JulieAnn Maddox is living a dream right now – and because she is, Kayla Irvin may be sleeping a little bit more easily at night.

Maddox is the mother of two of Irvin's players at Crockett County – senior Jayden and freshman Jordyn – and both are becoming bigger factors in the Lady Cavalier rotation as the season moves along. Never was that more evident than Saturday's 48-39 victory at Fayette-Ware, where the younger Maddox came off the bench to score 14 points in a game in which offense was hard to generate.

"As a mom, it's amazing to watch them together," JulieAnn said after the win, Crockett's ninth in 12 starts. Her joy becomes even more understandable when you consider that Irvin – now the Lady Cav coach – played at Gleason under JulieAnn's coaching from the 8th to 11th grade, when she was Kayla Hudson. Ironically, JulieAnn stopped coaching at that point to go on maternity leave while carrying Jayden.

"It's come full circle with her (Irvin) getting to coach my girls," JulieAnn said.

Jordyn, who has scored 25 points over the last two games, said that being with Jayden has eased any anxiety about being a freshman on a team of mostly upperclassmen.

"I've really enjoyed the opportunity to get to play with Jayden this year," Jordyn said. "Because of our age difference, we've never played on the same team. I feel like we read each other well and that helps.

"It hasn't been as awkward being a freshman because of Jayden as well," she continued. "I already knew the older girls because of her, and they hang out at our house often. They've been really encouraging to me and feel like family too."

It wasn't really until midway through Friday's narrow defeat at Chester County that many Crockett fans got to see the potential Jordyn brings. The freshman drilled a trio of three-pointers to keep the Lady Cavs in the game when other players in the usually reliable offense were being shut down. Then, on Saturday – while she didn't make a three – she didn't need to, netting seven other shots to lead all Crockett scorers with 14.

"The coaches and my teammates are always pulling for me to shoot the ball because they know it's a strength of mine," Jordyn said, "but I still don't feel very deserving. They all support me and it makes it easier to fill that role and help make the team better."

Big sister Jayden does all the things that don't always show up on statistic sheets: setting picks, blocking out opposing rebounders, taking charges, making the extra pass to get a shooter open, and the like. A thoughtful player, Jayden – who's also excellent on the softball diamond – doesn't show any of the negative effects that a sibling rivalry can sometimes produce.

"Playing with Jordyn is one of the biggest blessings of my senior season," she said. "I love being on the floor with her and sharing this experience with this team together."

As a senior, Jayden also knows the toughest stretch of the Lady Cav schedule will be when district play begins in January. She knows Crockett will have to step it up a notch to stay competitive in the talented field of teams.

"Playing well together and being confident in our abilities will definitely help our district play," she said. "I feel like we're a really diverse team and have different options in player personnel that will make us a tough team to beat."

Jayden's words were well illustrated Saturday when 10 different Lady Cavs got into the scoring column even though the team didn't even reach the 60 mark as a whole. Irvin's club jumped to a 15-7 opening-period advantage with Amaria Walker netting five of the points. Hannah Johnson did the same in the second, and the visitors led 27-16 at the intermission.

In the third stanza, Jordyn Maddox led a 17-6 surge with three baskets and then added three more early in the fourth to push Crockett safely ahead. Even though Fayette-Ware exploded for 27 points in the final period, the Lady Wildcats trailed 44-22 when it started, so the outcome was never really in doubt.

While Jordyn's 14 points paced the Lady Cav scoring, Johnson added 11 and Sarah Cherry 10 to also reach double figures. Walker finished with seven and Jayden Maddox had four in the second half. Ke'Miyah Buggs – getting hot in the final quarter after the issue had been settled – scored 16 of her 20 then to lead Fayette-Ware.

In the boys game that concluded the afternoon, the powerful Wildcats – now 10-1 – easily disposed of the Cavaliers 78-38, zooming to quarter leads of 25-6, 50-23, and 66-34 on the way there. Three Fayette-Ware players reached double figures, and three others had eight apiece, as the home squad ran away with the decision. Tacarien Freeman topped the list with 14.

For Crockett, Davian Green was the lone double-figure scorer with 10. Zay Jones added eight, Amarion Hobson five, and Demo Pickens four. No other Cav netted more than three as Crockett dropped to 2-9 for the season.

Both Crockett teams resume play December 28 in Jackson's Oman Arena in the opening round of the three-day Hub City Classic. Pairings and times will be announced later.



**Friday, Dec. 22 at Somerville**

**CC Girls (58):** Karlee Castellaw 1 0-0 2, Sarah Cherry 3 2-2 10, Gabby Bursey 1 0-0 2, Charity Greenhill 1 2-2 4, Jordyn Maddox 7 0-0 14, Hannah Johnson 4 2-2 11, Keeton Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Halle Holyfield 1 0-0 2, Jayden Maddox 2 0-0 4, Alice Luten 1 0-0 2, Amaria Walker 2 3-4 7, Ellie Henderson 0 0-0 0, **Team 23 9-10 58. 3-Ptrs:** Cherry 2, Johnson 1. **Record: 9-3.**

**Fayette-Ware (49):** Ke'Miyah Buggs 9 0-0 20, Markea Herron 5 0-4 10, Aaziyah Robertson 0 0-0 0, Leah Yates 3 3-8 9, JeKiyra Jones 2 0-0 5, Markala Terry 2 1-2 5, Amelia Walker 0 0-0 0, **Team 21 4-14 49. 3-Ptrs:** Buggs 2, Jones 1. **Record: 5-4.**

**CC Boys (38):** Grayson Lambert 0 0-0 0, Antuan Hobson 1 1-4 3, Jayden Frye 0 0-0 0, Preston Lambert 0 0-0 0, Lane Simmons 0 0-0 0, Amarion Hobson 2 0-0 5, Cade Freeman 1 0-0 2, Baker Jones 0 0-0 0, Davian Green 5 0-0 10, Karsen Burgess 0 0-0 0, Corey Savage 0 1-2 1, Dre Walker 1 0-0 2, Kevin Pledge 1 0-0 2, Zay Jones 2 2-2 8, Dakylan Woods 0 1-2 1, Ben Burgess 0 0-0 0, Demo Pickens 1 1-2 4, **Team 14 6-12 38. 3-Ptrs:** Jones 2, Pickens 1, Am. Hobson 1. **Record: 2-10.**

**Fayette-Ware (78):** Eric Jones Jr 4 1-1 11, Tarecous Stevens 5 2-2 12, Devaurius Chearis 3 0-1 6, Jeremiah Hayes 3 2-2 8, Tacarien Freeman 5 2-3 14, Arnez Bryant 2 0-0 4, Chris Ransom 1 2-2 4, Hunter Malena 1 0-0 3, Quaylon Hampton 3 1-2 8, Elijah Lowe 3 1-2 8, Baba Kone 0 0-0 0, **Team 30 11-15 78. 3-Ptrs:** Barham 1, McLemore 1. **Record: 10-1.**



**Right:** Freshman Jordyn Maddox - shown here pointing out to teammate Charity Greenhill (foreground) a defensive assignment in a press against Chester County Friday night - scored a season-high 14 points to lead Crockett County past Fayette-Ware 58-49 Saturday afternoon in Somerville.



**Above:** Jordyn's big sister Jayden - nursing a cut over her eye suffered earlier in Friday night's game - does all the fundamental things to help a team execute: setting picks, taking charges, making the extra pass, blocking out rebounders - and easing the transition of her freshman sister to varsity status.



**Above:** Hannah Johnson (14) - shown in action against Chester County Friday night - netted 11 points in Crockett's 58-49 triumph over Fayette-Ware.

**Left:** Senior point guard Sarah Cherry got back into double figures against Fayette-Ware after a couple of slow offensive nights, scoring 10 with two Cherry Bombs.



**Left:** Davian Green was the lone Cavalier to reach double figures for Crockett's boys against Fayette-Ware, contributing 10 points to the offense.

**Right:** Zay Jones (25), sliding through four defenders for a layup against Chester County Friday night, netted eight points and had two three-pointers against Fayette-Ware.

