

# JOHNSON ECLIPSES 1,000 POINTS; CAVS GIVE DYER COUNTY BOYS A SCARE



**Above:** Senior Hannah Johnson - with the trace of a slight smile on her face as she races down the court on a fast break - scored 21 points Tuesday night to eclipse the 1,000-point career mark and lead Crockett past Dyer County 73-49. (Photo by Ashley Owens)

## By Ron Barry

Hannah Johnson scored her 1,000th career point for Crockett County Tuesday night.

And in the third quarter, it looked like she might score a thousand more before the night was over.

The Lady Cavaliers were having one of their on-again, off-again games at Dyer County in Newbern, rolling to a healthy first-quarter lead before squandering it all with an abysmal second period. Crockett held a 30-29 halftime edge, which would not have been possible if junior guard Karlee Castellaw had not netted 10 points herself in that opening stanza.

But when the third quarter began, Johnson got into one of her electric spurts, slamming in 13 points, seemingly grabbing every available rebound, blocking Lady Choctaw shots, and running the floor relentlessly to encourage her teammates to keep the pacing brisk. And when the period ended - fittingly, with the red-hot Castellaw nailing a long three-pointer at the buzzer from in front of the suddenly-crazed Lady Cav bench - Coach Kayla Irvin's team held a 50-38 advantage that would only continue to widen over the final eight minutes.

When it was all over, Crockett had a 72-49 district victory and Johnson had 1,011 career points after knocking in a game-high 21 for the winners.

"I hope the girls noticed that the difference in the second half was we started doing all the little things well," said Irvin, whose squad moved to 14-6 on the season. "When we do the little things right, everything else falls into place. And when Hannah gets into one of her runs, she can't be stopped. Dyer was chasing her all over the floor and trying to keep the ball away from her, but when she starts grabbing offensive rebounds like she did tonight and putting them back, there wasn't much else they could do."

Irvin also had high praise for the play of the Maddox sisters - senior Jayden and freshman Jordyn - who both came off the bench to record double-figure scoring games and were key players in the third-quarter run that changed the game's momentum. Crockett tends to push the pace more when those two are in the game together, and they found each other several times for assists as the Lady Cavs pulled away.

"Everybody on this team contributed something worthwhile tonight," Irvin said. "I love how these girls support each other, whether they're on the floor or not. Our bench was great tonight, and their energy helps the players in the game keep going hard."

Four Crockett players - Johnson with 21, Castellaw with 13, Jayden Maddox with 11, and Jordyn Maddox with 10 - reached double figures, and Amaria Walker (nine points, including five-of-five from the free throw line) almost made it five. Point guard Sarah Cherry was more content to keep the ball distributed on this night, while engineering the quicker pace of play and contributing her usual hustle in all other areas as well.

The Lady Cavs now have a chance to even their district record to 2-2 - and also pull their opponents back to that same mark - when they travel to Medina to battle South Gibson Friday night.

In the doubleheader nightcap Tuesday night, the game between the 2-17 Cavaliers and the 17-1 Choctaws figured to be a major mismatch - but no one told Coach Rick Rudesill's Crockett crew.

Even without top shooter Rhett Butler - sidelined again with a leg injury - the Cavaliers came out strong in the opening quarter and built a 19-11 edge within the first seven minutes. With senior Antuan Hobson playing one of his finest games, that margin spread to 28-17 with 3:55 left before the half as Hobson connected for baskets on three consecutive possessions.

While Dyer County rallied in the closing minutes, it still took a buzzer-beating three-pointer by guard Jamin Gauldin to knot the score at 34-all at intermission time.

But that second-period rally initiated what turned out to be a 34-13 Choctaw run, which gave the hosts a 51-41 lead with 1:01 left in the third stanza. Crockett actually remained close - still within 10 with 3:53 to play - when Hobson picked up his fifth foul to end his evening with a game-high 22 points.

Dyer County widened the final count to 73-56, but knew without a doubt it was a victory that had to be earned. Rudesill went with an opening lineup that essentially featured two point guards - Demo Pickens and Amaron Hobson - and while the fast-paced game had its share of turnovers, the Cavaliers were more efficient than they had been in quite a while.

Lane Simmons supported Antuan Hobson's big night with 10 points, one more than Amaron Hobson. Dre Walker added six and Grayson Lambert five for Crockett. Gauldin notched 20 for the Choctaws, who also received 17 apiece from Pierre Isom and Marcus Martin.

**Tuesday, Jan. 23 at Newbern**

**CC Girls (72):** Karlee Castellaw 4 1-2 13, Sarah Cherry 3 0-0 6, Gabby Bursey 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 0 0-0 0, Jordyn Maddox 4 0-1 10, Hannah Johnson 9 2-3 21, Keeton Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Halle Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 5 1-3 11, Alice Luten 1 0-0 2, Amaria Walker 2 5-5 9, Ellie Henderson 0 0-0 0, **Team 28 9-14 72.**  
**3-Ptrs:** Castellaw 4, Jor. Maddox 2, Johnson 1. **Record: 14-6.**



**Left:** For the second time this season, point guard Sarah Cherry managed to come out of a shoe while making a dribble pivot...

**Below:** ... but the savvy senior kept the play going, so freshman Jordyn Maddox came to set a pick for her and opened up a drive which led to an assist for another basket. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Dyer County (49):** Emma Ables 0 0-0 0, Adelyn Talbot 1 0-0 2, Molly Roberts 0 0-0 0, Ty'Keria Kennedy 2 3-6 7, Sanayah Starks 2 0-0 4, Carly Belognio 0 0-0 0, Alexis Parkin 0 0-0 0, Zya Currie 4 0-0 12, Alijah Robinson 5 1-1 11, Marley Morgan 0 1-5 1, Roniya Jones 2 1-3 6, Zayle Hobson 1 0-0 2, Anitra Honbre 1 2-2 4, **Team 18 8-17 49.**  
**3-Ptrs:** Currie 4, Jones 1. **Record: 11-8.**



**Left:** Karlee Castellaw and Jayden Maddox helped set the defensive tone early, with Castellaw ripping the ball away here after Maddox blocked the Lady Choctaw path to the basket...

**Below:** ... and Castellaw then dove on the floor to continue the battle for the ball, typifying the kind of hustle Crockett eventually showed in breaking open the game in the second half.

**CC Boys (56):** Grayson Lambert 2 1-2 5, Antuan Hobson 11 0-0 22, Jayden Frye 0 0-0 0, Preston Lambert 0 0-0 0, Lane Simmons 4 2-4 10, Amaron Hobson 4 0-2 9, Dre Walker 3 0-2 6, Zay Jones 1 0-0 2, Demo Pickens 1 0-0 2, **Team 26 3-10 56.**  
**Ptrs:** Am. Hobson 1. **Record: 2-18.**

**Dyer County (73):** Jayden Tyler 0 0-0 0, Devin Hayward 3 0-0 6, Pierre Isom 7 3-5 17, Bo Dodds 0 0-0 0, Pereon Isom 0 0-0 0, Marcus Martin 5 4-8 17, Jamin Gauldin 8 2-5 20, Justice Mosley 3 2-3 9, Talon Messer 1 0-0 3, Clay Dodds 0 0-0 0, Ryker Hayes 0 1-2 1, **Team 27 12-23 73.**  
**3-Ptrs:** Martin 3, Gauldin 2, Mosley 1, Messer 1. **Record: 18-1.**



**Above:** Amaria Walker also made it difficult for Dyer County to try to score from the lane area.



**Left:** It was Hannah Johnson's night, here stripping the ball away from Dyer's Ty'Keria Kennedy and going off to the races again for two more of her 21 points.



**Above:** When Karlee Castellaw drilled this buzzer-beating three-pointer at the end of the third period - signaled here by Jayden Maddox behind her - the party was definitely on...

**Below:** In the fourth quarter, Jayden Maddox got sandwiched and steamrolled on a shot attempt, hit by a guard in the front and a center in the back... (Photo by Ashley Owens)



**Above:** ... as the bench exploded with delight, with Maddox still signaling the three, teammates Lanyah Cathey and Chloe Adkisson jumping for joy, and the queen of bench reactions Deonna Cole (third from right) celebrating as only she can. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



**Left:** Sarah Cherry and Karlee Castellaw helped Maddox up as she struggled to get her breath...



**Below:** ... and Cherry checked to see if all her vital organs were still inside her midsection...

**Below:** ... and then everyone just got tickled as sister Jordyn (left) and Hannah Johnson entered to add their condolences.





**Above:** Crockett's guys gave Dyer County all it could handle in the nightcap, sparked by Antuan Hobson's 22 points, many of which came on shots like this one.



**Left:** Demo Pickens (34) got a start at point guard in this one and helped improve the Cavaliers' efficiency, along with Amaron Hobson.

**Below:** Lane Simmons (11) saves this ball from going out of bounds after a long carom on a Dyer County three-pointer. Simmons scored 10 points for Crockett.



**Below:** Dre Walker moves the ball away from the corner as Crockett tries to generate some fourth-quarter offense.



**Above:** The Cavaliers' Preston Lambert (4) finds a novel way to cause a turnover as Demo Pickens breaks for the other end as the ball comes loose from Dyer's Pierre Isom (3).



**Above:** Grayson Lambert (00) teams with Dre Walker to knock the ball loose from Pierre Isom again as the Cavs geared up their defensive effort all night.