

# FREE THROW BLITZ HALTS LADY CAVS; CROCKETT BOYS HAMMERED BY HORNETS



**Above:** Crockett's Hannah Johnson went up strong for this layup against South Gibson's Brooklyn Davidson early in the third quarter, drawing a foul and making the basket for an "and-one." The play brought the Lady Cavs within a point at 35-34.

## By Ron Barry

It's highly unusual to see a visiting basketball team come into its opponent's home gymnasium and shoot 28 free throws to just six for the locals.

It's even more unusual for that statistical anomaly to occur without a constant outcry about the officiating from the home crowd.

But that was the case Tuesday night as South Gibson's Lady Hornets – running their disciplined offense at maximum efficiency – forced Crockett County to play into their hands in capturing a hard-fought 60-53 triumph over the Lady Cavs in the opening game of regular season district competition.

South Gibson ran a dribble-drive triple weave designed to open up a variety of kick-out three-point shot attempts – which it hit on early and often – or to force so many defensive switches that eventually it would draw a mismatch, which leads to fouling. That's what happened late and often.

Yet even with the Lady Hornets' efficiency offensively, Crockett was right in the game until the final minute, and with just a little more accurate shooting or just a few less turnovers, could have switched the result around.

But Lady Hornet point guard Karsen Dunn – who executed the South Gibson game plan to perfection – offset any comeback thoughts the Lady Cavs may have had by sinking 10 straight free throws in the final quarter alone to keep the visitors' margin intact. For the game, she nailed all 14 of her tries, adding three treys from the field to finish with 23 points.

Crockett's Hannah Johnson netted nine of her team-high 19 points in that frantic final period herself, but it wasn't enough to get the Lady Cavs over the hump. It didn't help that Crockett dug itself a 10-2 hole right out of the gate, but actually took a 14-12 lead with 1:25 in the first quarter on a three by Charity Greenhill.

South Gibson claimed the second period 19-11 by making four three-pointers, offsetting a pair of them by the Lady Cavs' Karlee Castellaw and taking a 33-25 advantage at the halftime break.

Crockett never took the lead again, although it repeatedly cut the deficit a number of times throughout the second half. A three-point "and-one" play by Johnson made it 35-34 with 5:49 left in the third period, but the Lady Hornets scored nine of the next 11 to restore their cushion.

Coach Kayla Irvin's squad again cut it to one (47-46) with only 4:04 to play when Amaria Walker scored off a Sarah Cherry assist, but a basket by South Gibson's Jade Reed and two free throws by Dunn quickly pushed it up to a six-point edge again with 2:51 to go.

The hosts never got closer than four points again. Every offensive gain was offset by Dunn at the free throw line, dropping the Lady Cavs to 13-5 on the season and 0-1 in the district with always tough Dyersburg up next on the road Friday night. The Lady Hornets improved to 12-7 for the year.

Walker backed Johnson's 19-point effort with 12 for Crockett, while Greenhill had eight and Castellaw and Cherry six apiece. Hallie Allen netted 16 and Natalie Lewis 12 for the winners, supporting Dunn's 23.

In the boys game that concluded the evening, South Gibson scored the first 17 points of the contest and coasted from there, thrashing the Cavaliers 73-44 by drilling 12 three-pointers and holding the hosts without a single double-figure scorer. Kevin Pledge paced the Crockett cause with eight points off the bench, while Grayson Lambert, Antuan Hobson, and Davian Green contributed seven each.

Cade Allen drilled five treys and sparked South Gibson with 17 points, while Trevor Lemings nailed four bombs and finished with 16. Koen Thomas added 15 more for the Hornets, who improved to 9-9, while Crockett slipped to 2-16 on the season. Both Crockett clubs travel to Dyersburg for a Friday night doubleheader next.

### Tuesday, Jan. 9 at Alamo

**CC Girls (53):** Karlee Castellaw 2 0-0 6, Sarah Cherry 2 0-0 6, Gabby Bursey 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 3 0-0 8, Jordyn Maddox 1 0-0 2, Hannah Johnson 7 4-5 19, Halle Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 0 0-0 0, Amaria Walker 6 0-1 12, **Team 21 4-6 53. 3-Ptrs:** Castellaw 2, Greenhill 2, Cherry 2, Johnson 1. **Record: 13-5.**

**South Gibson (60):** Mary Teague 1 0-0 2, Natalie Lewis 5 0-0 12, Jade Reed 1 3-6 5, Hallie Allen 5 4-6 16, Karsen Dunn 3 14-14 23, Anna Teague 0 0-0 0, Brooklyn Davidson 0 2-2 2, **Team 15 23-28 60. 3-Ptrs:** Dunn 3, Allen 2, Lewis 2. **Record: 12-7.**

**CC Boys (44):** Grayson Lambert 2 3-4 7, Antuan Hobson 2 3-5 7, Jayden Frye 0 0-0 0, Preston Lambert 0 0-0 0, Lane Simmons 1 2-2 4, Amarion Hobson 0 0-0 0, Cade Freeman 1 0-0 2, Baker Jones 0 0-0 0, Davian Green 2 2-4 7, Karsen Burgess 0 2-2 2, Corey Savage 1 0-0 2, Dre Walker 0 1-2 1, Kevin Pledge 3 1-2 8, Zay Jones 0 0-0 0, DK Woods 0 0-0 0, Ben Burgess 1 0-0 2, **Team 14 14-21 44. 3-Ptrs:** Pledge 1, Green 1. **Record: 2-16.**

**South Gibson (73):** Trevor Lemings 6 0-0 16, Koen Thomas 7 0-0 15, Cade Allen 6 0-0 17, Cade Beaver 0 1-2 1, Noah Clouse 3 0-0 7, Kale Marcum 0 1-2 1, Sam Tritt 0 2-2 2, Gavin Crawford 5 1-2 11, Aiden Moore 1 0-0 3, Jackson Strickland 0 0-0 0, Cooper Yarbrow 0 0-0 0, Collin Lockett 0 0-0 0, Richard Addo 0 0-0 0, **Team 28 5-8 73. 3-Ptrs:** Allen 5, Lemings 4, Thomas 1, Clouse 1, Moore 1. **Record: 9-9.**



**Above:** Crockett's Karlee Castellaw (2) cuts off a drive attempt by South Gibson's Hallie Allen. Castellaw made two three-pointers in the second quarter to keep the Lady Cavs close.

**Left:** Amaria Walker (25) slips behind the Lady Hornet defense to record two of her 12 points.



**Left:** Lady Cav point guard Sarah Cherry (3) looks over two lines of South Gibson defense as she tries to help engineer a fourth-quarter comeback.



**Above:** Win or lose, Crockett's girls play hard, as illustrated by this play. Hannah Johnson (getting up off the floor) cut off Karsen Dunn's dribble, enabling Karlee Castellaw (on the floor) to knock the ball toward Jayden Maddox (22)...



**Above:** ... Jayden Maddox outruns South Gibson's Mary Teague and dives on the ball as Karlee Castellaw tries to get back in position to help her out...

**Right:** ... and Maddox and Castellaw manage to push the ball over to Hannah Johnson (unseen), who has regained her feet and begins a fast break which leads to a score.





**Above:** Crockett's Charity Greenhill fires a three-point attempt over a leaping Natalie Lewis of the Lady Hornets.



**Above:** Lady Cav freshman Jordyn Maddox (13) brings the ball up quickly in an attempt to beat the South Gibson defense to the bucket.

**Below:** Hannah Johnson scored 19 points to lead the Lady Cav offense, but it wasn't enough to offset South Gibson's accurate free throw shooting.



**Above:** Sarah Cherry (3) tries to beat the Lady Hornets up the floor after yet another time when Hannah Johnson (getting up in the background) knocked the ball loose for a steal.



**Left:** Corey Savage looks for an open teammate as the Cavaliers face South Gibson.

**Below:** Cav guard Antuan Hobson (1) drives to the basket to attempt a fast-break layup against South Gibson.



**Above:** Crockett's Cade Freeman (13) tries to put the clamps on the Hornets' Cade Allen (12), who burned the Cavs for five three-pointers.



**Left:** Crockett cheerleader (and golfer) Rachel Crossnoe does backflips during player introductions. Here's her takeoff...

**Below:** ... and the final spring off her hands toward the final landing

