

DYERSBURG SWEEPS CROCKETT HOOPSTERS IN FRIDAY TWIN BILL



Above: One of the few times Crockett did get the best of Joya Crawford is when Charity Greenhill (right) beat her to this loose ball and shoveled it to a teammate before being hip-checked by the Dyersburg junior. (Photo by Ashley Owens)

By Ron Barry

When Joya Crawford was starting as a freshman on a mediocre Dyersburg team, the word among those who saw her play was, "If they ever get a couple of other good players to help her out, they could be really good."

Well, Crawford is a junior now. And she has help now.

On Friday night, the marvelously talented Crawford hit the first six three-pointers she took on her way to a 27-point performance as the Lady Trojans cruised past Crockett County 53-38 in a game which never really seemed that close. The Lady Cavaliers, as they have on occasion this season, dug a deep first-half hole for themselves and then never could make up the difference as Dyersburg improved to 16-2 and 2-0 in District 13-AAA play.

In the boys game that capped the doubleheader, Crockett's guys put up one of their better fights of the season against a quality Trojan team – hanging tough for most of three quarters – before a final blitz gave the hosts a 74-47 victory in a game which seemed much closer.

The Cavaliers actually led 10-9 at the end of the first period behind eight points from Dre Walker, who buried a pair of threes in the stanza. In the second quarter, Crockett received a welcome sight with the return of senior sharpshooter Rhett Butler, who missed two weeks with a leg injury. Butler quickly put seven points on the board for the visitors, although Dyersburg pulled ahead at the intermission 29-23.

Coach Rick Rudesill's squad was still within 31-27 with 5:54 to play in the third, but over the next three minutes the Trojans went on a 14-2 run, mostly due to Crockett turnovers. Dyersburg actually outscored the Cavs 43-20 over the game's final 14 minutes to boost their season record to 12-6 and their district mark to 2-0. Crockett fell to 2-17 and 0-2.

While the Cavs had trouble dealing with 6-8 junior center Breyden Turnage in the middle – he had 14 points – it was senior guard Thadd Hill who did most of the offensive damage, netting 21 points with three treys. Ace Mahaffey scored 12 of his 14 points in the final quarter as the hosts pulled away.

Crockett was led by Antuan Hobson with 11, with Walker and Butler contributing 10 apiece. Jayden Frye hit a pair of three-pointers to finish with six for the Cavs.

The girls encounter, which most observers thought would be a close contest, was tied at 11-all with 7:11 remaining in the opening half. But Dyersburg then recorded 16 of the next 18 points with an offensive show that featured rapid ball movement, numerous passes per possession, and a determination to create an open three-point shooter.

While it never looked like the Lady Trojans were specifically trying to run plays just for Crawford, she consistently found herself open after her teammates had made five or six quick passes while she meandered through Crockett's defenders until an open three was available – and she didn't miss one until just before the end of the third period.

The Lady Cavs' offense, by comparison, was no match. Senior Hannah Johnson battled her way to an 18-point performance, but had to work extremely hard to get there. Crockett was able to get the ball inside to Amaria Walker for 13 points overall, but Dyersburg seemed content to yield inside field goals worth two points in exchange for the three points it was going to seek on the other end.

The Lady Trojans pushed their advantage to 20 points by the end of the third period (44-24) although the Lady Cavs managed to whittle it down to 12 midway through the fourth, but not enough shots were falling for Crockett as its season record slipped to 13-6 and its district mark to 0-2. The visitors didn't receive a field goal from three of their starters as Dyersburg defenders hounded the perimeter all night.

Both Crockett teams are scheduled to host Obion County on Tuesday night, but school has already been canceled for that day due to weather concerns. While the games had not yet been canceled as of Friday night, there is a chance they will end up being rescheduled.



Above: Jayden Maddox (22), guarded by Dyersburg's Kalli Maclin (25), waits for a cutter to zip into an open spot for her pass. (Photo by Ashley Owens)

Friday, Jan. 12 at Dyersburg

CC Girls (38): Karlee Castellaw 0 0-0 0, Sarah Cherry 0 1-2 1, Gabby Burse 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 0 2-3 2, Jordyn Maddox 2 0-0 4, Hannah Johnson 8 0-1 18, Jayden Maddox 0 0-0 0, Amaria Walker 4 5-8 13, **Team 14 8-14 38. 3-Ptrs:** Johnson 2. **Record: 13-6.**

Dyersburg (53): Kayleigh Strayhorn 1 0-0 2, Kathleen Harrell 1 0-0 3, Chelby Jordan 4 -12 9, Meredith Zamzow 0 0-0 0, Netala Dixon 0 0-0 0, Dakayla Holder 0 0-2 0, Kaliyah Lewis 0 0-0 0, Aena Quinn 2 1-2 6, Joya Crawford 9 3-6 27, Kalli Maclin 3 0-2 6, **Team 20 5-14 53. 3-Ptrs:** Crawford 6, Quinn 1, Harrell 1. **Record: 16-2.**

CC Boys (47): Grayson Lambert 2 0-0 4, Antuan Hobson 5 1-2 11, Jayden Frye 2 0-0 6, Rhett Butler 4 0-0 10, Preston Lambert 0 0-0 0, Lane Simmons 1 0-0 2, Amaron Hobson 1 0-0 2, Dre Walker 4 0-0 10, Kevin Pledge 1 0-0 2, Zay Jones 0 0-0 0, Demo Pickens 0 0-2 0, **Team 20 1-4 47. 3-Ptrs:** Butler 2, Walker 2, Frye 2. **Record: 2-17.**

Dyersburg (74): Jace Ward 1 0-0 2, Ace Mahaffey 5 2-2 14, AJ Higgins 0 0-0 0, Justin Sawyer 0 0-0 0, Travon Smiles 1 0-0 2, Thadd Hill 9 0-1 21, Jeffery Cobb 2 0-0 5, Will Short 1 0-0 2, Mikey McLin 5 0-0 11, Jayce Ellerbrook 1 1-1 3, Breyden Turnage 6 2-4 14, **Team 31 5-8 74. 3-Ptrs:** Hill 3, Mahaffey 2, Cobb 1, McLin 1. **Record: 12-6.**



Left: Hannah Johnson (14) gets around a solid screen set by Amaria Walker (25) to look for a shot attempt against Dyersburg while Sarah Cherry (3) provides an outlet if she needs to pass. Johnson and Walker combined for 31 of Crockett's 38 points in the 53-38 defeat. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: The Lady Cavs had no answer for the outstanding Joya Crawford, seen here slipping in a layup after beating everyone down the floor on a fast break. Crawford netted 27 points, including six threes. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Think these games don't get rough from time to time? Check the bruise on Jordyn Maddox's right arm as she lines up to rebound on this free throw attempt against Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: The going is never easy for Hannah Johnson when she gets into the lane area, as here she's awaiting a crash from behind by Lady Trojan defender Netala Dixon. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Right: Early in the second quarter, when Crockett's Karlee Castellaw was ready to rebound this Dyersburg free throw attempt, the Lady Cavs were locked in an 11-all tie. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Skylyn Kennemore was one of the Crockett cheerleaders trying to get things going in the right direction for the maroon teams. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Early in the boys game, Crockett's Antuan Hobson (1) tries to challenge three Dyersburg defenders on this layup, including 6-8 junior center Breyden Turnage (34). Hobson led Cavalier scorers with 11. (Photo by Ashley Owens)

Below: A welcome sight for the Cavs was the return of senior Rhett Butler (3), who'd been out with a leg injury. Butler netted 10 points in the contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: A picture of eternal optimism: Crockett guard Amarion Hobson, who's a bit shy of six feet tall, drives in to challenge Dyersburg's 6-8 Breyden Turnage on this play. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Dre Walker (23), who also scored 10 for Crockett, prepares to muscle up for a power layup in the lane area. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Below: Antuan Hobson puts on the skids before changing direction for another drive to the hoop. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Above: Jayden Frye (with ball) hit a couple of three-pointers in the second half for the Cavaliers against Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Grayson Lambert (00) goes up hard for a contested shot in the second half of the game with the Trojans. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Prior to the start of the night's play, two of the finest ladies in the land have a pre-game conversation on the Lady Cavalier bench: Crockett scorebook keeper Michele Holyfield (left) and Lady Cav head coach Kayla Irvin. (Photo by Ron Barry)