

SARAH CHERRY NETS 30 AS LADY CAVS CRUSH HUMBOLDT



Above: Crockett senior point guard Sarah Cherry delivered the offensive game of her career, netting 30 points in the 70-53 drubbing of Humboldt.

By Ron Barry

No one who has seen Sarah Cherry play basketball had doubts that she ever COULD score 30 points in a game.

Many of those people might be surprised that she DID score 30 points in a game.

The surprise comes only because Cherry is so unselfish that most people would think she'd never take enough of her own shots in a single game to score 30 points herself. In fact, Coach Kayla Irvin has a legendary saying that applies to Cherry perhaps more than to any other player she's coached: "Shoot the dang ball!"

Friday night against Humboldt, Crockett County's senior point guard operated against a chaotic Lady Viking press that, while its players run around quite a bit going for steals and swiping at the ball, they also miss most of the time and leave large stretches of the court unguarded. Cherry found herself finding quite a few of those spots, and when the first few shots started falling, well...

Thirty points later – and that didn't include most of the fourth quarter, as Irvin substituted liberally in a lopsided game – Cherry had led the homestanding Lady Cavaliers to a 70-53 victory, their seventh in nine starts this season. Included were four "Cherry Bombs" – three-pointers from the semi-reluctant shooter that have a knack for going in the basket, even though she almost has to be dared into shooting them sometimes.

But even with a standout performance from an individual like that one, Irvin is finding her joy this season in what continues to be a team-oriented squad devoted to supporting each other and trying to improve each time out.

"These girls played a complete game with so many amazing contributions from each girl," she said. "Extra passes, taking charges, finishes with contact, rebounds, assists, and cheers for each other. I love all the small, non-stat-sheet-making things they were doing tonight. We celebrate what each girl brings to the table to make our team grow."

Part of what made Cherry's night possible was the threat posed by the other Lady Cavs. Karlee Castellaw and Hannah Johnson each scored 13 points; Castellaw also had a slew of assists in the first half as Crockett blew the game open, and Johnson was dominant on the boards much of the time in addition to her shot-making.

Irvin's club scored the first 11 points of the game and led 22-10 after the first period, one in which Cherry racked up 12 of her points. Johnson added five in the stanza, and then the Lady Cavs stretched the halftime advantage out to 37-18 as Cherry netted five more points in the second quarter.

She added eight more in the third before Irvin began substituting freely, using every player dressed out, including some that saw their first varsity game action. Even so, Cherry, Castellaw, and Johnson combined for 56 of the team's 70 points, with four more apiece coming from Jayden Maddox and Amaria Walker.

Tamyra Patterson paced Humboldt with 24 points, backed by Saeryna Day's 17, which included five treys.

In the boys game that followed, Humboldt completely dominated the Cavaliers, who got off to such a sluggish start that Coach Rick Rudesill began going to the bench early and often just trying to find any combination that could find success. But the Vikings steadily pulled away behind a monster game from Fred Moore, rolling 75-39.

A more complete report on that game will be provided when the game scorebook has been accessed.

Both Crockett teams will be in action again Tuesday in the Henry County Classic in Paris. The girls will play Graves County (KY) at 6:00 and the boys will face Henry County at 7:20.



Above: Senior Jayden Maddox (22) blocks out a Humboldt defender to get rebounding position in Crockett's 70-53 triumph.

Friday, Dec. 15 at Alamo

CC Girls (70): Karlee Castellaw 3 5-9 13, Sarah Cherry 10 6-7 30, Gabby Bursey 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 1 1-2 3, Jordyn Maddox 1 0-0 2, Hannah Johnson 5 2-3 13, Jayden Maddox 2 0-0 4, Amaria Walker 2 0-0 4, Chloe Adkisson 0 0-0 0, Lanyah Cathey 0 1-2 1, Keeton Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Halle Holyfield 0-0 0, Deonna Cole 0 0-0 0, Alice Luten 0 0-0 0, Audrey Whitby 0 0-0 0, Torey Savage 0 0-0 0, Ellie Henderson 0 0-0 0, **Team 24 15-23 70. 3-Ptrs:** Cherry 4, Castellaw 2, Johnson 1. **Record: 7-2.**



Above: Junior guard Karlee Castellaw (2) snakes between the Lady Viking defense as Amaria Walker (25) sets a pick. Castellaw hit two threes, totaled 13 points, and handed out a slew of assists.

Humboldt (53): Kendall McLeMore 3 1-5 7, Tamyra Patterson 7 8-15 24, Saeryna Day 5 2-2 17, Jailyn Dotson 1 3-4 5, Cylinthia Wedley 0 0-0 0, Kelyah Brown 0 0-0 0, Tyleiagh Jestice 0 0-0 0, A'liyah Price 0 0-0 0, **Team 16 14-26 53. 3-Ptrs:** Day 5, Patterson 2. **Record: 3-2.**

CC Boys (39): Grayson Lambert 0 0-0 0, Antuan Hobson 2 0-0 5, Jayden Frye 1 0-0 3, Rhett Butler 2 1-2 6, Preston Lambert 1 0-0 2, Lane Simmons 1 0-2 2, Amarion Hobson 0 0-0 0, Cade Freeman 0 0-0 0, Baker Jones 0 0-0 0, Davian Green 3 0-0 7, Karsen Burgess 2 0-0 4, Corey Savage 1 0-0 3, Dre Walker 0 0-2 0, Kevin Pledge 0 1-2 1, Zay Jones 0 2-2 2, Dakylan Woods 0 0-0 0, Ben Burgess 0 2-2 2, Demo Pickens 1 0-0 2, **Team 14 6-12 39. 3-Ptrs:** An. Hobson 1, Frye 1, Butler 1, Green 1, Savage 1. **Record: 2-7.**

Humboldt (75): K. Taylor 5 1-3 11, J. Patterson 2 3-4 7, Kaven Taylor 0 2-4 2, Je'Kevious Graves 1 0-0 2, KaZaiah Curry 0 0-2 0, Keyvontay Wedley 2 0-0 4, Carnell Allen 0 2-4 2, Tyon Campbell 1 0-0 2, Fred Moore 12 3-4 27, Tebias Bell 3 0-0 6, Stephon Shivers 5 2-4 12, **Team 31 13-25 75. 3-Ptrs:** None. **Record: 5-4.**



Above: Crockett cheerleader Carrington Smith was lighting up the sidelines with her ever-present smile.



Above: Senior Hannah Johnson, enjoying the special Christmas audience, gets set to launch a three from the corner. Johnson had 13 points in the Crockett win over Humboldt.



Above: The night belonged to Sarah Cherry - here nailing a free throw - as she drained four Cherry Bombs (3-pointers) and six other field goals on her way to a career-high 30 points



Above: Jordyn Maddox lines up for a free throw attempt, awaiting the second one when a rebounding opportunity may present itself.



Above: Senior Charity Greenhill (12) tries to run down a Humboldt fast break as Hannah Johnson (14) lends support from the middle.



Above: Lanyah Cathey looks for an open teammate in the lane late in Friday night's victory over Humboldt.



Above: Audrey Whitby (10) deflects a Humboldt pass as teammate Keeton Holyfield patrols the area behind her in the fourth quarter of Crockett's win over Humboldt.



Above: Deonna Cole receives an inbound pass and is immediately walled up by a Lady Viking defender in the lane.