

LONG-RANGE REBELS BRING CAVALIERS' SEASON TO A CLOSE



Above: Antuan Hobson goes up to score two of his game-high 24 points as Crockett battled highly-ranked Dyer County to a virtual standstill Friday night before falling 67-60. (Photo by Ashley Owens)

By Ron Barry

Imagine trying to defend against a meteor shower.

That's kind of what it's like to play the Obion County Rebels. There are so many objects raining down from the sky – in this case, basketballs – that several are bound to go through the net.

Crockett County faced that dilemma Tuesday night in the opening round of the District 13-AAA Tournament, and as a result, the season is over for Coach Rick Rudesill's Cavaliers after a 65-44 defeat.

Obion's offense relentlessly rains three-pointers from all around the arc. Any of their players is likely to take one, and every possession is seemingly geared to create the opportunity. The Rebels shoot so many that even on a bad night, quite a few are bound to go in.

Nine of them went in Tuesday night – five fewer than the last time the two teams played. But the Cavs struggled for much of the game as if a lid had been placed over their basket, and by the time they got into anything resembling a rhythm, the contest was pretty much over.

It actually boiled down to two Obion runs. During a tightly-contested first quarter, the Rebels held a slim 10-8 advantage just before the end of the period. But over the next five minutes, Coach Ralph Turner's crew went on a 16-0 spurt that pushed their margin to 26-8.

Crockett battled back to get within 41-31 with 2:43 remaining in the third stanza, but then the Rebels reeled off nine of the next 11 points to establish an edge that wouldn't be seriously threatened again, although Rudesill's quintet continued to apply the effort.

No individual got hot for any length of time for Crockett, as indicated by the fact that not one reached double figures in scoring. Antuan Hobson, who hit all five of his free throws attempts, was the team leader with nine points. Kevin Pledge made a solid contribution in limited minutes off the bench, netting eight points to match starter Rhett Butler. Jayden Frye added six and Dre Walker and Zay Jones chipped in four apiece.

For Obion, Grady Wilkins scored 16, Jatlynn Mosley 13, Levi Hendrix 10, and Malachi Island nine. Even with all of their three-point attempts, the Rebels shot 26 free throws to nine for the Cavs, but only made 14 of them. Obion gains a berth in the Region 7-AAA Tournament with the win, and moves into Saturday night's district semifinals against top-seeded Dyersburg.

Crockett's girls, already assured of a region berth by virtue of avoiding the Tuesday play-in game (won by Obion over Dyer County), begin their district play Friday night at 7:30 against second-seed South Gibson.

The remaining District 13-AAA tournament schedule:

Friday, Feb. 16 (Girls)

6:00 – Dyersburg (21-4) vs. Obion Co (17-12)

7:30 – South Gibson (17-12) vs. Crockett County (19-7)

Saturday, Feb. 17 (Boys)

6:00 – Dyersburg (18-7) vs. Obion Co (18-10)

7:30 – Dyer County (24-2) vs. South Gibson (12-15)

Monday, Feb. 19 (Girls)

6:00 – 3rd Place Game – Losers of Friday night games

7:30 – Championship Game – Winners of Friday night games

Tuesday, Feb. 20 (Boys)

6:00 – 3rd Place Game – Losers of Saturday night games

7:30 – Championship Game – Winners of Saturday night games

Tuesday, Feb. 13 at Alamo

CC Boys (44): Antuan Hobson 2 5-5 9, Jayden Frye 2 1-1 6, Rhett Butler 3 0-0 8, Lane Simmons 1 0-0 2, Amarion Hobson 0 0-0 0, Dre Walker 2 0-0 4, Kevin Pledge 3 2-3 8, Zay Jones 2 0-0 4, Demo Pickens 1 0-0 3, Baker Jones 0 0-0 0, **Team 16 8-9 44. 3-Ptrs:** Butler 2, Frye 1, Pickens 1. **Record: 3-24 (0-8 district).**

Obion County (65): Malachi Island 3 2-4 9, Aden Lee 1 3-3 6, Aiden McBride 3 0-0 7, Grady Wilkins 4 4-8 16, Levi Hendrix 4 1-2 10, Jatlynn Mosley 5 2-3 13, Tanner Richmond 0 0-0 0, Parker Clark 0 0-2 0, Austin Cook 0 0-0 0, Travis Fraley 0 0-0 0, Carsen Jones 1 2-4 4, **Team 21 14-26 65. 3-Ptrs:** Wilkins 4, Island 1, Lee 1, McBride 1, Hendrix 1, Mosley 1. **Record: 18-10 (7-1 district).**



Above: Jayden Frye was just a millisecond late getting to this loose ball, but displayed the kind of hustle the Cavaliers had Tuesday night in the District 13-AAA Tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's leading scorer Antuan Hobson looks to whip a pass from the wing before being hemmed in by Obion defenders. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Dre Walker (23) curls his tongue after driving past Obion's Aiden McBride (3) and heads for the basket. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Senior Lane Simmons, playing his final game as a Cavalier, drives around Obion's Levi Hendrix (23) as he searches for an open teammate. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jayden Frye (2) avoids traffic long enough to whip this pass out to Rhett Butler (3) for a three-point shot attempt from the top of the key. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: The Cavalier Crazies - for once getting to include several members of the Lady Cavaliers basketball team - were out in force Tuesday night to support the boys in their district tournament contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Rhett Butler shoots over Obion's Malachi Island on his way to eight points in Tuesday night's District 13-AAA Tournament action. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Point guard Zay Jones dashes between Rebel defenders Levi Hendrix (23) and Grady Wilkins (11) in search of a receiver for his ensuing pass. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Antuan Hobson (1) appears to have soccer-kicked this perfect pass over to teammate Kevin Pledge, but he had actually used his hands just a second earlier. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Lane Simmons prepares to set a pick and then break towards the basket as Crockett readies an inbounds play from the baseline. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Antuan Hobson shows the emotion of the realization that he has played his last high school game after fouling out late in Tuesday night's tournament game. (Photo by Ron Barry)