

LADY CAVS ARE DISTRICT RUNNERS-UP; REGION TOURNAMENT BEGINS FRIDAY



Above: Crockett's Amaria Walker protects the ball from Dyersburg's Kayleigh Strayhorn (1) as she tries to help break the Lady Trojan press in Tuesday night's District 13-AAA championship game. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

If you had forecasted prior to the District 13-AAA Tournament championship game that Dyersburg wouldn't make a single three-pointer and All-District sharpshooter Chelby Jordan wouldn't make a single field goal, you'd probably had also guessed that it would be Crockett County hoisting the trophy at the contest's conclusion.

Well, that's exactly what transpired - except for the Lady Cavs lifting the trophy part.

Dyersburg's Lady Trojans, again playing without District Most Valuable Player Joya Crawford, managed to capture the championship crown despite a frigid display from beyond the arc and with Jordan having to be content with only free throws. Somehow they managed to eke out a 46-35 victory, primarily because Crockett experienced similar shooting woes and had trouble handling the Dyersburg press for much of the night.

Therefore, the Lady Trojans carry the top seed from District 13 into the Region 7-AAA Tournament, which begins across four sites - including Alamo - Friday night at 7:00. Dyersburg will host Bolton, Crockett will entertain Haywood, Obion County travels to Bolivar, and South Gibson heads to Fayette-Ware. In those 14-AAA games Tuesday night, Fayette-Ware (11-9) claimed the district title with a 68-66 win over Bolivar (12-15), and Haywood (12-13) earned the third seed by clobbering Bolton (3-17) 66-11.

The two teams that make it to the Region 7-AAA championship game will move on to the West Sectionals against squads from 15-AAA, barring any upsets by the Memphis schools in District 16-AAA. Still alive in 15-AAA are Millington (18-8), Covington (12-15), Brighton (12-17), and Munford (11-17).

To survive and advance in the regional, Crockett will have to perform much better than it did against Dyersburg. The Lady Cav offense never got rolling with any consistency at any time in the game, never scoring more than 10 points in a quarter and with no individual player netting more than four points in a period.

The attack wasn't helped at all when Crockett's leading scorer Hannah Johnson was whistled for her second foul with 2:01 remaining in the opening quarter. The score was tied at 8-all at the time, but Johnson headed for the bench as Coach Kayla Irvin does not like to keep any player in the game with two fouls before the halftime break.

Just minutes later, Dyersburg had opened the gap to 17-8 with a 9-0 run, fueled by Netala Dixon, who tallied 10 of her squad's first 12 points and had 14 in the first half as the Lady Trojans built a 27-15 advantage.

Crockett won Quarter #3 10-6, but still wasn't scoring enough to pose a serious threat to Dyersburg. The Lady Cavs never got closer than eight points over the third and fourth quarters.

Charity Greenhill, who made three triples, led the Lady Cav scoring with 10. Johnson had eight - all in the second half - and Sarah Cherry contributed six.

For the Lady Trojans, Kalli Maclin supported Dixon's 20 by adding 13, including five in the second period when Dyersburg did most of its pulling away from Crockett. Jordan had six points, all on free throws.

Johnson, Cherry, and Greenhill were selected to the All-Tournament Team from Crockett, joining Maclin, Dixon, Aeria Quinn, and MVP Jordan from Dyersburg; Alayna Fussell and AB Correa from Obion; Hallie Allen from South Gibson; and Sanaya Starks from Dyer County.

The regular season All-District Team was also announced, featuring Johnson, Cherry, and Amaria Walker from Crockett; Zya Currie from Dyer; Jordan, Kayleigh Strayhorn, and MVP Joya Crawford from Dyersburg; Fussell from Obion; and Allen, Jade Reed, and Karson Dunn from South Gibson.

Three Lady Cav seniors - Cherry, Johnson, and Jayden Maddox - earned Academic All-District honors by maintaining at least a 3.1 GPA for their scholastic careers.

The District 13-AAA Tournament boys' action concludes Tuesday night in Alamo with Obion facing South Gibson for third place at 6:00 and Dyersburg tangling with Dyer County for the championship at 7:30.



Above: Crockett's Cavalier Crazies were pinked-out for the championship game, loudly supporting their Lady Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Monday, Feb. 19 at Alamo

CC Girls (35): Karlee Castellaw 0 1-2 1, Sarah Cherry 2 2-3 6, Gabby Bursey 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 3 1-2 10, Jordyn Maddox 2 0-0 4, Hannah Johnson 4 0-0 8, Jayden Maddox 1 0-0 2, Amaria Walker 2 0-2 4, Team 14 4-9 35. 3-Ptrs: Greenhill 3. **Record: 20-8 (5-3 district).**

Dyersburg (46): Kayleigh Strayhorn 2 0-0 4, Kathleen Harrell 0 1-2 1, Chelby Jordan 0 6-6 6, Meredith Zamzow 0 0-0 0, Netala Dixon 7 6-6 20, Kaliyah Lewis 0 0-0 0, Aeria Quinn 0 0-0 0, Kalli Maclin 6 1-3 13, Elizabeth Lemons 1 0-0 2, **Team 16 14-17 46. 3-Ptrs: None. Record: 23-4 (7-1 district).**



Left: Lady Cav Charity Greenhill was the only player from either team to make a three-pointer in the contest, drilling three on her way to a team-high 10 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Lady Cav leading scorer Hannah Johnson was hampered by foul trouble in the first half and was hounded by Dyersburg double-teams in the second half. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Sarah Cherry contests this jump shot by Dyersburg's Chelby Jordan (11). Cherry held the Lady Trojan star without a field goal, although Jordan hit all six of her free throws in the 46-35 Dyersburg win. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Somehow in this mass of bodies Crockett's Karlee Castellaw managed to power up a shot attempt and draw a foul against Dyersburg's Netala Dixon (13). (photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Three Crockett seniors - Jayden Maddox (left), Hannah Johnson, and Sarah Cherry - earned District 13-AAA All-Academic Team honors. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: The Maddox sisters - senior Jayden (22) and freshman Jordyn (13) - team up to try to deny a shot attempt by Dyersburg's Netala Dixon, who scored 20 points to key the Lady Trojan triumph.



Above: The District 13-AAA All-Tournament Team (from left): MVP Chelby Jordan of Dyersburg; Alayna Fussell and AB Correa from Obion; Aeria Quinn from Dyersburg; South Gibson's Hallie Allen; Sarah Cherry, Charity Greenhill, and Hannah Johnson of Crockett County; Dyersburg's Kalli Maclin; Sanayah Starks of Dyer County; and Netala Dixon of Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Members of the regular season All-District Team (from left): MVP Joya Crawford and Chelby Jordan of Dyersburg; Alayna Fussell of Obion County; Crockett's Hannah Johnson; Hallie Allen of South Gibson; Crockett's Sarah Cherry; Dyersburg's Kayleigh Strayhorn; Crockett's Amaria Walker; Zya Currie of Dyer County; Jade Reed and Karson Dunn of SGC; and Sanayah Starks of Dyer County.