

LADY CAVS BELT HAYWOOD; REGION TOURNAMENT SHIFTS BACK TO ALAMO



Above: Karlee Castellaw, here sliding past Haywood's Camariya Woodland (1), netted four free throws in the opening quarter with drives like this one. (Photo by Ashley Owens)

By Ron Barry

From Amaria Walker's opening basket Friday night, you could tell right away that both she and a rabid Crockett County fan base were on a mission at the opener of the Region 7-AAA Tournament in Alamo.

Walker was assertive offensively right from the first possession, and the Lady Cavalier capacity crowd followed suit with its response, setting the tone for what would become a 77-51 rout of Haywood and a berth in Monday night's semifinals.

Even more meaningful for Crockett County was the fact that all four District 13-AAA teams swept their District 14-AAA opponents, which means that the remainder of the regional - originally scheduled to be played at Fayette-Ware in Somerville - now shifts back to Alamo for Monday and Wednesday games.

The Lady Cavs will duel South Gibson for the fourth time Monday night in a 7:30 semifinal, following the 6:00 opener between Obion County and top-seeded Dyersburg. Crockett has won two of the first three match-ups with SGC, but all three games have been close and the Lady Hornets certainly have the talent to be a formidable foe.

For Coach Kayla Irvin, the news of a District 13 sweep was not surprising, but definitely welcomed.

"Our girls respond to our crowd," she said after the Haywood contest, "so to be able to play in front of our own fans should give us an extra energy boost. We always have tough games with South Gibson, so any edge we can get in crowd support is a good thing for us."

Another good thing for Crockett was Walker's performance against the Lady Tomcats. The junior center knocked down 17 points and showed a fire that is often hidden by her normally reserved nature. The Lady Cavs surrounded her with supportive gestures and constant encouragement throughout the contest, and the crowd's loud response certainly didn't hurt the atmosphere.

Walker had eight of Crockett's first 16 points as the hosts raced to a 23-10 lead, also buoyed by five points off the bench from freshman Jordyn Maddox and four-of-four free throws from guard Karlee Castellaw.

Maddox drilled her second three-pointer to kick off the scoring in the second quarter, and point guard Sarah Cherry followed with another. Walker contributed six more points in the period, and Hannah Johnson - whom Haywood treated like a pinball much of the night, physically knocking her around throughout the game - added six-of-six free throws to open up a 41-18 halftime advantage.

After that, Irvin played everyone on the varsity roster in the final two quarters as the starters partied on the bench with every shot made by their teammates and the boisterous crowd continued to enjoy the entertainment. The noise level reached its peak when Lanyah Cathey drilled back-to-back three-pointers on consecutive possessions and reserves Torey Savage, Alice Lutten, and Chloe Adkisson also netted baskets.

Right: Crockett's Hannah Johnson was getting knocked to the floor all night by Haywood defenders, but hit 8-of-9 free throws on her way to 12 points. (Photo by Ashley Owens)

Supporting Walker's 17-point effort were Cherry with 13, Johnson with 12, Maddox with 10, Cathey with six, Castellaw with four, and Jayden Maddox with three. Camariya Woodland was a virtual one-girl show for Haywood, collecting 29 points.

The remaining Region 7-AAA bracket is now a repeat of the District 13-AAA Tournament after Dyersburg spanked Bolton 82-42, Obion got past Bolivar Central 42-34, and South Gibson toppled Fayette-Ware 47-37.

In Region 8-AAA - the group that will provide the West Sectional opponents for Region 7's finalists - Millington hammered Kirby 65-13, Brighton blasted Melrose 58-31, Ridgeway slipped past Munford 59-51, and Covington outlasted Hamilton 47-41.

Following is the full slate of results and matchups in the West Tennessee region tournaments.

REGION 7-AAA TOURNAMENT

Friday, February 23 (All Games 7 p.m.)

Gm 1: Bolton (D14 #4) 42, Dyersburg (D13 #1) 82

Gm 2: Obion County (D13 #3) 42, Bolivar Central (D14 #2) 34

Gm 3: South Gibson (D13 #4) 47, Fayette-Ware (D14 #1) 37

Gm 4: Haywood (D14 #3) 51, **Crockett County (D13 #2) 77**

Monday, February 26 (At Alamo)

Gm 5 (6 p.m.): Dyersburg (24-4) vs. Obion County (19-13)

Gm 6 (7:30): South Gibson (18-14) vs. Crockett County (21-8)

Wednesday, February 28 (7 p.m. at Alamo)

Gm 7: Championship - Winner Gm 5 vs. Winner Gm 6



REGION 8-AAA TOURNAMENT

Friday, February 23 (All Games 7 p.m.)

Gm 1: Kirby (D16 #4) 13, Millington (D15 #1) 65
 Gm 2: Brighton (D15 #3) 58, Melrose (D16 #2) 31
 Gm 3: Munford (D15 #4) 51, Ridgeway (D16 #1) 59
 Gm 4: Hamilton (D16 #3) 41, Covington (D15 #2) 47

Monday, February 26 (At Millington)

Gm 5 (6 p.m.) - Millington (19-8) vs. Brighton (13-17)
 Gm 6 (7:30 p.m.) - Ridgeway (9-10) vs. Covington (13-15)
 Thursday, February 29 (6 p.m. at Millington)
 Gm 7: Championship - Winner Gm 5 vs. Winner Gm 6

WEST SECTIONALS

Saturday, March 2 (7 p.m.)

Region 8 R-Up at Region 7 Champion
 Region 7 R-Up at Region 8 Champion
 (These two winners earn berths in the State)

Friday, Feb. 23 at Alamo

CC Girls (77): Chloe Adkisson 1 0-1 2, Karlee Castellaw 0 4-4 4, Sarah Cherry 5 2-2 13, Gabby Bursey 1 2-2 4, Lanyah Cathey 2 0-0 6, Audrey Whitby 0 0-0 0, Charity Greenhill 0 0-0 0, Jordyn Maddox 4 0-0 10, Hannah Johnson 2 8-9 12, Keeton Holyfield 0 0-0 0, Halle Holyfield 1 0-0 2, Deonna Cole 0 0-0 0, Jayden Maddox 11-2 3, Alice Luten 1 0-0 2, Torey Savage 1 0-0 2, Amaria Walker 7 3-7 17, Ellie Henderson 0 0-0 0, **Team 26 20-27 77. 3-Ptrs:** Jo. Maddox 2, Cathey 2, Cherry 1. **Record: 21-8.**

Haywood (51): Camariya Woodland 13 3-7 29, Lela Yancy 1 4-6 6, ZaKerya Diggs 0 0-0 0, Zamaria Murphy 1 2-2 4, Jakhia Hall 0 1-11, Sheronica Wilks 1 0-0 2, Kiara Worles 0 0-0 0, Macie Ferrell 3 0-0 9, **Team 19 10-16 51. 3-Ptrs:** Ferrell 3. **Record: 12-14.**



Left: Amaria Walker scored the game's first basket - and then kept going for a total of 17 points. (Photo by Ashley Owens)

Below: Amaria Walker draws the first of two charges she took in the second quarter, helping bring the Crockett crowd to a frenzy. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Below: Firing over Haywood's Sheronica Wilks (22), Crockett's Lanyah Cathey fires the shot that ignited the Lady Cavalier bench. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Below: Chloe Adkisson breaks loose for a fourth-quarter layup to get into the Crockett scorebook. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: The Lady Cavs' five starters - Amaria Walker, Hannah Johnson, Charity Greenhill, Sarah Cherry, and Karlee Castellaw - react to the second three-pointer drilled by reserve Lanyah Cathey. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Far Left: Gabby Bursey, in front of a section of the Cavalier Crazies, breaks for the basket after receiving a teammate's pass. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Left: Crockett's Sarah Cherry (3) drives past Haywood's Zamaria Murphy on her way to a 13-point night. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Above: Senior point guard Sarah Cherry will now lead her Lady Cav teammates into the season's fourth matchup with South Gibson, with a West Sectional berth on the line. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Above: Halle Holyfield fires a pass out of the corner to pick up an assist in the Crockett triumph. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Above: Crockett's Alice Luten works around Haywood's Kiara Worles (42) to score a bucket in the Lady Cavs' regional win. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Hannah Johnson draws the attention of three Haywood defenders as she tries to free herself for a shot attempt in the regional victory. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Above: Jayden Maddox packs this shot attempt by Haywood's Sheronica Wilks (22) and sister Jordyn (13) is there to gather the rebound. (Photo by Ashley Owens)



Above: Torey Savage worked her way open for a shot in the final period, knocking this one down for two points. (Photo by Ashley Owens)