

THREE-POINT BARRAGE SPARKS LADY CAVALIER ROUT; PEABODY EDGES CAVS 73-68



Above: Melany Arreola had instructions for the crowd throughout both games of the doubleheader. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

Former Union University women's basketball coach David Blackstock used to say of a team having a bad shooting night, "They couldn't hit water if they fell out of a boat."

That's exactly how Crockett County's Karlee Castellaw felt last Friday night against Lexington – a game in which she did not score.

"We watched film of the game the next day, and I was absolutely humiliated," the senior guard said. "Honestly, I was disgusted. My body language was horrible too. I hated the way I looked and felt – and I just decided I was never going to let myself feel like that again." That self-revelation – along with a little advice afterward from Coach Kayla Irvin – would be next tested Tuesday night when Trenton Peabody came to Alamo. And it didn't take long to see which way Castellaw's fortunes would flow.

She hit her first shot, a 15-footer from the side. Then she drilled a three-pointer. And then another. In between the 15-footer and the pair of treys, it seemed she assisted on every other basket the Lady Cavaliers made. And when the first quarter ended, Crockett had a 24-6 lead.

Irvin's club was on its way to a lopsided 73-35 victory, their third straight win in as many starts. And what Irvin told Castellaw after that film session had a lot to do with it.

"Coach K told me that if I concentrated on playing defense well and continued to do all the little things that I can do besides scoring, then my shots would start to fall," Castellaw said. "She told me I was thinking about it too much. I just needed to go out there and play."

The other Lady Cavs took Irvin's advice to heart as well, from the looks of things. Crockett nailed an astounding 12 of 18 three-point attempts – five by Castellaw – and six different players contributed to the total. Eleven Lady Cavs scored in the contest, led by 19 from sophomore Jordyn Maddox and 17 from Castellaw.

Peabody – which only dressed seven players – was outgunned from the start. Crockett scored the game's first 10 points and never looked back. Irvin substituted early and often, and every Lady Cav performed admirably.

"I love these kids," Irvin said. "It's so fun to see everyone do their job well and encourage their teammates to do the same. I love watching them share the basketball so well."

Crockett was up 37-20 at the half. The starters returned for a brief spurt in the third period, and Castellaw promptly buried three more threes to match an additional nine points from Maddox.

Suddenly, the margin was 58-24.

Amaria Walker netted nine points for Crockett, with Gabby Bursey adding six and Kira Bray five. Torey Savage scored four, and Keeton Holyfield, Audrey Whitby, and Chloe Adkisson all hit a three-pointer off the bench. Freshman Wesley Thornton tallied her first varsity points as a Lady Cav.

In the nightcap, Crockett's boys put up another gallant battle against a talented visitor, but Peabody prevailed 73-68 when the Cavs – who had taken a surprising 63-62 lead before top scorer Cade Freeman fouled out with 3:01 remaining – couldn't counter the Golden Tide's speed and athleticism over the final minutes.

Jayden Frye nailed a three-pointer from deep in the right corner to cut Peabody's edge to 67-66 with 59 seconds left, but a basket by Peabody's Zay Jelks and free throws by Jamarcus Haynes and Emmanuel Cannon enabled the visitors to escape with the win.

The contest was close throughout. The largest margin Trenton achieved was 11 points (46-35 with 6:40 left in the third quarter), but a Freeman three-pointer, two free throws by Squirt Pickens, and an Andre Garduno putback got the hosts right back in it. And when DK Woods drove the length of the floor for a basket and an "and-one," Crockett had actually taken a 63-61 advantage.

But when Freeman – who led the Cavs with 18 points – fouled out, Peabody was able to get to the foul line often enough to seal the triumph.

Pickens netted 13 and Zay Jones 11 for Crockett, with Preston Lambert contributing nine and Garduno six. Cannon produced 24 for the winners, who also received 17 from Thomas Luten and 13 from Jelks.

Both Crockett teams are off for Thanksgiving break, but resume play December 3 at Chester County. The twin bill will begin at 6:00 in Henderson.

GIRLS GAME #3 – NOV 26

Crockett (73) – Jordyn Maddox 19, Karlee Castellaw 17, Amaria Walker 9, Gabby Bursey 6, Kira Bray 5, Torey Savage 4, Keeton Holyfield 3, Audrey Whitby 3, Chloe Adkisson 3, Halle Holyfield 2, Wesley Thornton 2, Tink Willis 0, Deonna Cole 0, Ellie Henderson 0, Baylee Griggs 0, TEAM 29 FG, 3-4 FT. 3-Pointers: Castellaw 5, Bursey 2, Maddox 2, K Holyfield 1, Whitby 1, Adkisson 1. Record: 3-0.

Peabody (35) – Ny'asia Luten 21, A'nylah Ross 12, Paislee Walls 2, Za'kayria Skinner 0, Alexis Jones 0, Emyiah Agnew 0, Ya'Kyra Linsley 0, TEAM 12 FG, 9-10 FT. 3-Pointers: Luten 1, Ross 1.

BOYS GAME #3 – NOV 26

Crockett (68) – Cade Freeman 18, Squirt Pickens 13, Zay Jones 11, Preston Lambert 9, Andre Garduno 6, Kevin Pledge 5, DK Woods 3, Jayden Frye 3, Grayson Lambert 0, Reed Leforgee 0, Cortland Reddick 0, TEAM 21 FG, 18-28 FT. 3-Pointers – Freeman 3, Jones 3, P Lambert 1, Frye 1. Record: 0-3.

Peabody (73) – Emmanuel Cannon 24, Thomas Luten 17, Zay Jelks 13, Jamarcus Haynes 12, Jemelvin Brooks 4, Ryder Patterson 3, Jayden Jennings 2, Zay Skinner 0, Noah Woolfork 0, Ontarrio Agnew 0, TEAM 26 FG, 15-29 FT. 3-Pointers – Luten 4, Cannon 3, Jelks 1.



Left: Karlee Castellaw eyes the basket from the left wing as she prepares to launch her fifth successful three-pointer of the game, on her way to 17 points and a resounding Lady Cav win over Peabody. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jordyn Maddox, wrestling for possession of this loose ball on the floor with a Peabody foe, led Crockett's point parade with 19. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Amaria Walker worked hard inside to add nine points to the Lady Cav offense. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Chloe Adkisson managed to take this ball away from a Peabody player even while the opponent was hanging on her leg. Adkisson was one of six Lady Cavs to make a three-pointer Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: It didn't matter which side of the court Karlee Castellaw shot from Tuesday night, or how close her defender was. The official is signaling the result of this launch from the right wing. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Keeton Holyfield drilled a three-pointer almost immediately after entering the game for the Lady Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Sophomore point guard Gabby Bursey hit a couple of threes and kept the Crockett transition game humming with several fast break passes. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Torey Savage was ready to put the clamps on this Peabody shot attempt. Unfortunately, there's a Crockett hand reaching in from the side to foul the shooter. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Audrey Whitby came in and swished a trey as well, one of 12 on the night (in just 18 attempts) for Crockett. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Freshman Wesley Thornton scored her first points as a varsity player for the victorious Lady Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett coach Kayla Irvin pulled Karlee Castellaw (2) and Jordyn Maddox (13) out in the third quarter, saluting their 36 collective points and letting them know it was time to spread the fun around to some others. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Halle Holyfield played another solid game, continuing to do a lot of little things that don't always fill the stat sheets but make a big difference on the court. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Kira Bray fires a free throw for one of her five points in Tuesday's contest in Alamo. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Tink Willis tries to pound the ball inside to a teammate who has established a strong position in the lane. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Cade Freeman -- Crockett's leading scorer with 18 points -- looks his defender in the eye before zipping around him to the left for a scoop lay-up on a fast break. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Squirt Pickens -- who scored 13 points for the Cavs -- steps into the passing lane and swipes this possession from Peabody as Crockett mounts its fourth-quarter comeback. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Kevin Pledge hit a couple of free throws to bring Crockett within a basket (70-68) with 37 seconds remaining in the game Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: DK Woods (32) once again came off Crockett's bench and helped spark a second-half rally, especially on this play when he gathered up a loose ball like a football fumble, took it the length of the floor, and completed an "and-one" three-point play to put the Cavs ahead 63-61 with 4:11 left in the game. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Cavalier coach Rick Rudesill gives timeout instructions to Andre Garduno (24), who contributed some solid minutes off the bench down the stretch for Crockett Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Preston Lambert (3) looks for a cutter as Peabody applies pressure all over the court. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Showing their support from the Cavalier Crazies section Tuesday night were (from left) Max Utley, Garet Rawson, Luke Carter, and Austin Carroll. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Andre Garduno (24) gets this shot off for a huge Cav bucket before Peabody's defenders can react during Crockett's fourth-period spurt. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Squirt Pickens and Cade Freeman team up to make this shot a no-go for Trenton Peabody, an example of the hustle displayed in Tuesday night's nail-biter. (Photo by Ron Barry)

