

CAV HOOPSTERS ARE "OFF THE SCHNEID"; GIRLS ALSO ROLL IN SWEEP OF CHESTER COUNTY



Above: Lady Cav point guard Gabby Bursey readies a free throw during second-half action in Tuesday night's win over Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

It's a pretty safe bet that most people don't know the origin of the sports term "schneid."

What's important today is that Crockett County's basketball Cavaliers are "off" of it.

In sports slang, to be "off the schneid" means to break a losing streak; more particularly, to get a "zero" off your record or off the scoreboard. It actually originates from the card game gin rummy, where a "Schneider" is a low point score that also boosts your opponent's score considerably higher.

"Schneider" is a German Jewish surname that means "tailor," although it literally means "cutter." How it worked its way into gin rummy is not as clear, and how "off the schneid" worked its way into the sports lexicon is even less clear.

At any rate, the Cavalier hoopsters are officially "off the schneid" after hitting some clutch free throws in the game's final two minutes to eke out a 59-54 triumph at Chester County to claim their first win after starting the season 0-3.

It was a doubly successful road trip to Henderson, as in the first game of the twin bill, Crockett's girls – despite somewhat of an "off" shooting night – hammered the Eaglettes 53-19 to move to 4-0 on the season.

The nightcap looked like it might be a nightmare for Crockett when Cade Freeman – the Cavs' leading scorer this season – was whistled (correctly) for a couple of fouls barely three minutes into the contest. He sat the remainder of the first half, but his teammates stepped up and forged a 32-26 lead at the break, sparked by a couple of threes from Jayden Frye and eight points and a boatload of inspiring hustle from DK Woods.

With Freeman back on the floor for the third period, Coach Rick Rudesill's club took its biggest edge of the game at 41-32 when Frye drilled another trey at the 3:32 mark. But less than three minutes later, the hosts had pulled it back to a 42-42 deadlock and had all the momentum swinging their way when the quarter ended at 44-all.

Chester's Jayden Williams netted the first bucket of the final period, and things seemed to be slipping away from the hard-luck Cavs once again. But that would turn out to be the Eagles' only lead for the rest of the contest as Crockett revved up its defense, exemplified by the glue-like hounding Squirt Pickens put on Chester point guard Aiden Welch, who had 16 points for the hosts – but only two in the final frame.

Pickens wasn't the only Cav putting the clamps on the Chester offense. Christian Halford – who had 15 points for the Eagles through the first three quarters – didn't score in the fourth. And when Pickens broke away for a layup with 2:19 remaining in the game, Crockett had the lead back at 54-52.

Williams scored from short range to tie it again at 54-all, but the Cavs' Zay Jones knocked down a pair of free throws with just 1:06 left to play and then deflected a Chester pass, chased down the ball, and raced it back downcourt as Rudesill's squad went into a delay game, content to move the ball around until the Eagles committed a foul. They did so with 22.1 seconds left on the clock, and Freeman calmly swished both offerings to boost Crockett's margin to 58-54.

Welch missed a long three from the left wing shortly thereafter, Freeman netted another free throw with 8.8 ticks remaining, and the Cavs celebrated their first victory of the young season when the final horn sounded.

Frye nailed four treys and led Crockett's scoring with 16 points. Freeman backed him with 12 – 10 in the second half – and Woods and Pickens each contributed eight for the winners.

Although the girls game began slowly offensively – both teams missed several shots before anyone connected – Crockett's Karlee Castellaw eventually buried a pair of three-pointers and the Lady Cavs led 9-3 on their way to a 13-5 first-quarter advantage.

Coach Kayla Irvin's team held Chester County to single digits in each of the first three periods and capped off the defensive effort by throwing a shutout at the outgunned hosts in the final frame. The Lady Cavs led 30-11 by halftime and 44-19 through three quarters.

Castellaw and Jordyn Maddox paced the Crockett offense with 12 points apiece. Amaria Walker contributed 10, point guard Gabby Bursey six, and reserve Audrey Whitby four. The Lady Cavs' shooting jitters extended to the foul line, where they made only 11 of 23 attempts.

Both Crockett teams resume the campaign Friday night at 6:00 in Trenton, where they'll head for a rematch with Peabody. The squads return home Saturday for a noon doubleheader with McNairy Central.

GIRLS GAME #4 - DEC 3

Crockett (53) - Karlee Castellaw 12, Jordyn Maddox 12, Amaria Walker 10, Gabby Bursey 6, Audrey Whitby 4, Nyah Cathey 3, Keeton Holyfield 2, Halle Holyfield 2, Kira Bray 2, Torey Savage 0, Chloe Adkisson 0, Wesley Thornton 0, Tink Willis 0, Deonna Cole 0, Ellie Henderson 0, Baylee Griggs 0, TEAM 19 FG, 11-23 FT. 3-Pointers: Castellaw 3, Cathey 1. Record: 4-0.

Chester County (19) - Kloe Taylor 7, Alexis Rivers 4, Karley Heinsohn 3, JuJu Prather 3, Esther Osburn 2, Hanna Cherry 0, Georganna Pickens 0, Rebekah Richey 0, TEAM 8 FG, 2-5 FT. 3-Pointers: Heinsohn 1.

BOYS GAME #4 - DEC 3

Crockett (59) - Jayden Frye 16, Cade Freeman 12, Squirt Pickens 8, DK Woods 8, Zay Jones 6, Kevin Pledge 5, Andre Garduno 2, Grayson Lambert 2, Preston Lambert 0, Cortland Reddick 0, TEAM 19 FG, 16-22 FT. 3-Pointers - Frye 4, Pickens 1. Record: 1-3.

Chester County (54) - Aiden Welch 16, Christian Halford 15, Jayden Williams 13, Christian Swift 5, Markel Fulton 3, Jayce Goff 2, Peyton Barham 0, TEAM 20 FG, 9-13 FT. 3-Pointers - Halford 3, Welch 1, Swift 1.



Left: Crockett's Zay Jones -- just seconds after sinking a pair of free throws to put the Cavs ahead 56-54 with 1:06 left -- chases down the ball after deflecting a Chester County pass, allowing Crockett to maintain possession until another Eagle foul was called. Cade Freeman (13) and Preston Lambert (3) race downcourt with Jones on the play. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Cade Freeman goes high for a left-handed layup and draws a blocking foul on the Chester County defender. Freeman picked up two quick fouls and sat for virtually the entire first half, but scored 10 points over the final two periods to help Crockett gain its first win of the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Jayden Frye nailed four three-pointers for the Cavs and paced Crockett's scoring with 16 points as the team improved to 1-3 on the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Squirt Pickens stepped up the defense in the final half and made life miserable for Chester County point guard Aiden Welch. Pickens hounded Welch repeatedly everywhere he went... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: DK Woods (32) spins in this bucket in front of the Chester County student section. Woods scored eight first-half points and his inspiring hustle was instrumental in helping the visitors notch a 32-26 halftime advantage. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: ... and eventually generated this breakaway layup which gave Crockett a 54-52 lead with only 2:19 to play. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Andre Garduno (24) stifled this shot attempt by the Eagles' Christian Halford during Tuesday night's initial win for the Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Coach Rick Rudesill watched his Cavs rev up the defensive effort for a second-half run that resulted in Crockett's first triumph of the season after an 0-3 start. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kevin Pledge hit a couple of key free throws with 5.3 seconds left in the third quarter to ensure that the Cavs wouldn't be trailing heading into the final frame. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's win brought smiles to this Cavalier cheer quintet of (from left) Kennedy Henning, Melanie Meza, Gracie Gaines, Carrington Smith, and Lexie Beaird. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett post player Amaria Walker peers over the top of the Chester County defense and finds Jordyn Maddox underneath, recording an assist in a reversal of their usual roles. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Cade Freeman calmly swishes the two charity shots that give Crockett a 58-54 edge with only 22.1 seconds to play. Freeman had 10 points in the final half. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Once Karlée Castellaw knocked down a couple of three-pointers in the opening minutes -- this is the second one, much to the chagrin of Chester County's Esther Osburn (4) -- the Lady Cavs were off and running to an easy victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: There are a lot of braids flying around on this play, as Crockett's Jordyn Maddox tries to overcome the hair whip to her face with a pressing defense against the Eaglettes' Kloe Taylor. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Audrey Whitby drives to the basket for a fourth-quarter layup in the Lady Cav victory at Henderson. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: It's no wonder Chester County only scored 19 points. Lady Cav defender Keeton Holyfield appears to have three arms while putting the press on this Eaglette guard. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Nyah Cathey excitedly spots a teammate break through the lane and prepares to drop her a quick pass for an assist. Cathey also nailed a three-pointer for Crockett. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Halle Holyfield positions herself for a potential rebound on this Chester County free throw. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Ellie Henderson looks for an open teammate while under the watchful eyes of scorebook keeper extraordinaire Michele Holyfield and assistant coaches Brent Fronabarger and Tyler Gadlen. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Wesley Thornton applies some tough defense in the second half against Chester County. The Lady Cavs shut the Eaglettes out in the fourth quarter after limiting them to single digits in each of the first three periods. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Torey Savage makes it tough for Chester County's Kloe Taylor to get off an unhindered shot on this drive to the hoop. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Karlee Castellaw, dishing off an assist to the post on this play, joined Jordyn Maddox in leading the Crockett scoring with 12 points apiece. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Coach Kayla Irvin does a little traffic direction as her Lady Cavs execute an offensive play Tuesday night. Irvin's club has started the season with four straight wins. (Photo by Ron Barry)

