

WOODS BUZZER-BEATER FUELS CAV OVERTIME WIN AS HOOPERS SWEEP CHESTER COUNTY



Above: DK Woods is mobbed by teammates Preston Lambert (left) and Grayson Lambert (right) after nailing his first career three-pointer at the buzzer in regulation to force an overtime Friday night against Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

Dakylan “DK” Woods had never made a single three-pointer in an actual basketball game in his life – until Friday night. With no time left on the regulation clock when it went in. For his only bucket of the evening. To send the game into overtime.

Truth be told, if Woods ever took a shot from beyond the arc unless it was an emergency, he’d likely be back sitting on the bench with the coaching staff. But they didn’t mind his last-second bullet Friday night in Alamo when Chester County’s defense shut down every other option after a missed free was batted around for a while before Crockett County’s Preston Lambert found himself with the ball, virtually trapped against the right sideline as the clock ticked down toward 0:00.

With no way to shoot it himself, he swung it over to Woods – who was only in the game at the time because of his defensive ability – standing just left of the top of the key. The second he caught the pass, he released the shot – and the ball passed through the net as the buzzer sounded and the Cavalier crowd went berserk.

Woods’ basket tied the score at 48-all and completed a four-point comeback in the final 21.3 seconds of regulation. Once into the four-minute overtime period, Coach Rick Rudesill’s Cavs took charge quickly with a Kevin Pledge basket and then iced the contest by swishing 10 of 11 free throws, producing a 62-53 Crockett win.

The triumph capped a sweep for the evening for Crockett, as the Lady Cavaliers – playing without Coach Kayla Irvin, who was sidelined with an illness – bested the Eaglettes 50-23 behind 16 points from Jordyn Maddox and 13 from Gabby Bursey.

Crockett captured the boys battle by slowly erasing a seven-point halftime deficit, finally pulling even at 39-39 on a Zay Jones basket with just 4:50 left to play. Chester County jumped right back out in front as point guard Aiden Welch – who had 28 points on the night – completed an “and-one” drive to the hoop, but Cade Freeman answered with a three-pointer for the Cavs at the 2:44 mark.

With 1:24 to go, Welch drilled a pair of free throws to put the Eagles back up 44-42, but Lambert responded on the Crockett end with a twisting layup with only 58 ticks remaining. Welch scored on another drive through the lane for Chester County and then was fouled after a Cav turnover, hitting both free throws to make it 48-44 with just 21.3 seconds left.

Crockett’s Pledge drew a foul with 10.8 seconds to go, hitting the first free throw but missing the second. After it pinballed around for a while, Lambert ended up with it right in front of the normal “Cavalier Crazies” section of the bleachers, where he was trapped against the sideline by a defender. He somehow got it over to Woods, who never hesitated as he slammed his three-pointer through the net at the final buzzer.

Ironically, for much of the final three minutes, Rudesill had been subbing Woods and Squirt Pickens in as defensive players when the Eagles had the ball, and putting Jones and Jayden Frye in when Crockett had possession. Woods was on the floor for Pledge’s second free throw only to apply defensive pressure after he made it. When he missed, and the ball kicked around, there wasn’t time for another timeout to be called.

The overtime period was all Crockett, and Freeman, Jones, and Pickens all delivered from the free throw line, enabling the hosts to boost their season record to 4-7. Freeman netted 18 points and Jones 16 to lead the Cav attack. Lambert, perhaps the main factor in keeping Crockett close through the first three quarters, added eight.

The girls contest got off to a slow start as the Lady Cavs took almost four minutes to score their first basket, a three-pointer by Bursey from the left wing. Not long after that, Crockett held a 24-2 advantage after a Karlee Castellaw triple sailed through the net with 5:55 remaining before halftime.

Eleven different Lady Cavs got into the scorebook for assistant coaches Tyler Gadlen and Brent Fronabarger. Maddox tallied 10 of her game-high 16 in the opening period. Castellaw scored all nine of her points in the first half as Crockett built a 30-10 margin by the intermission. The Lady Cavs are now 10-1 on the season.

Both Crockett teams are now off until post-Christmas competitions at separate locations. The girls will be playing in the Hub Classic at Liberty Tech, while the boys will participate in the Dynamix Christmas Classic at Westview in Martin. Games for both will be on December 27, 28, and 30.

GIRLS GAME #11 – DEC 20

Crockett (50) – Jordan Maddox 16, Gabby Bursey 13, Karlee Castellaw 9, Keeton Holyfield 3, Amaria Walker 2, Ellie Henderson 2, Torey Savage 1, Halle Holyfield 1, Wesley Thornton 1, Audrey Whitby 1, Tink Willis 1, Nyah Cathey 0, Kira Bray 0, Chloe Adkisson 0, Deonna Cole 0, Baylee Griggs 0, TEAM 16 FG, 12-23 FT. 3-Pointers: Castellaw 2, Maddox 2, Bursey 1, K Holyfield 1. Record: 10-1.

Chester County (23) – JuJu Prather 10, Savannah Williams 7, Alexis Rivers 3, Ester Osburn 2, Kloe Taylor 1, Georganna Pickens 0, Rebekah Richey 0, Hannah Cherry 0, Karley Heinsohn 0, TEAM 8 FG, 6-14 FT. 3-Pointers: Rivers 1. Record: 2-9.

BOYS GAME #11 – DEC 20 (Overtime)

Crockett (62) – Cade Freeman 18, Zay Jones 16, Kevin Pledge 11, Preston Lambert 8, Squirt Pickens 4, DK Woods 3, Andre Garduno 2, Reed Leforgee 0, Jayden Frye 0, Grayson Lambert 0, TEAM 19 FG, 20-26 FT. 3-Pointers – Freeman 2, P Lambert 1, Woods 1. Record: 4-7.

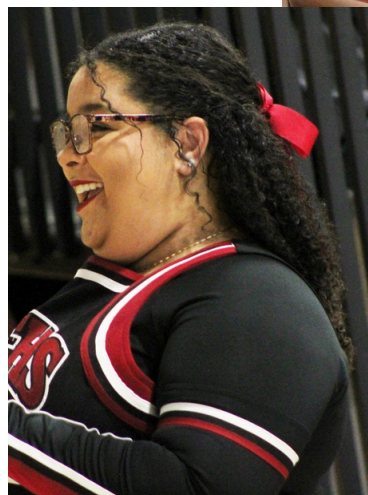
Chester County (53) – Aiden Welch 28, Jayden Williams 7, Jayce Goff 6, Isiah Stafford 4, Christian Halford 3, Christian Swift 3, Peyton Barham 2, Markel Fulton 0, TEAM 15 FG, 20-27 FT. 3-Pointers – Goff 2, Swift 1. Record: 3-7.



Left: Cade Freeman, guarded here by Chester County's Peyton Barham, led Crockett's scoring with 18 points Friday night in the overtime win. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Zay Jones splits the Chester County defense to drive for the basket in Friday night's victory. Jones netted 16 points in the triumph. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett cheerleader Kaelyn Bonds is enjoying the Cavaliers' fourth-quarter comeback and overtime dominance. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Aiden Welch scored 28 points for Chester County, but none on this play as Preston Lambert and Reed Leforgee stuck a double block on his layup attempt. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Crockett's Andre Garduno provided several solid minutes for the winners, who improved their season record to 4-7. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kevin Pledge works the ball around the top of the key area for Crockett. Pledge netted 11 points, including the first basket of the overtime period. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Cavalier coach Rick Rudesill signals in a defensive alignment during Friday night's overtime duel with Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Jayden Frye lines up on the right wing to play one of the top areas of a zone defense Friday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Cade Freeman prepares to launch the three-pointer that pulled Crockett even with Chester County at 42-all in the fourth period. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Preston Lambert (3) drives in against an Eagle double-team but still nailed the basket. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Gabby Bursey looks to begin a play against the Chester County defense. Bursey scored 13 points as the Lady Cavs improved to 10-1 on the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jordyn Maddox nails a three-pointer from the right wing over two defenders as Halle Holyfield (20) looks on from the corner. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Karlee Castellaw reaches out to smack the ball away from a Chester County player and ignite a transition basket. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: With Lady Cav head coach Kayla Irvin sidelined with an illness, assistant Tyler Gadlen collaborated with Brent Fronabarger and handled the communication to the players. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Ellie Henderson is ready to apply defensive pressure as soon as this Eaglette makes a move with the ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Tink Willis got into the scoring column for the Lady Cavs with this free throw. She was one of 11 Crockett players with points in the 50-23 win. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Keeton Holyfield has a fast break going in the second half of Crockett's rout of Chester County Friday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Halle Holyfield has to work her way through a "handsy" Chester County defense on her way to the basket. (Photo by Ron Barry)