

CROCKETT COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL WINS DOUBLE-OVERTIME THRILLER IN TOURNAMENT OPENER

By Ron Barry

Coach Tyler Gadlen had a roller coaster of a night in Dyersburg Thursday.

In the opening round of the NWMSAA Basketball Tournament, Gadlen watched his Cavaliers take the halftime lead on a long buzzer-beater by Jeremiah Young, extend the lead to 12 entering the fourth quarter, blow that advantage when Dyersburg – which hadn't made a three-pointer in the game – drilled four of them in the final period, and then pull things back together enough to post a 48-42 triumph in double overtime.

"It was a heck of a game," Gadlen said afterward, "and I'm so proud of our composure and fight to pull out the win. It's a huge win for them and I am so blessed to be their coach and be a part of a great school system."

The victory advances Crockett to an 8:15 game Saturday night as the event shifts to Milan. Crockett's girls, who had a first-round bye, will play at 4:30 there as well.

In a low-scoring first half, the Cavaliers were trailing 12-11 when they had to go the length of the floor with 3.8 seconds on the clock before intermission. Young – the game's leading scorer with 18 points – heaved a shot from well beyond the top of the key and nailed it to push the Cavs in front 14-12.

Riding that momentum, Gadlen's crew outpointed Dyersburg 14-4 in the third quarter and appeared to have the game well in hand, but the host Trojans suddenly got red-hot from long-range, draining four threes to key a 19-7 run that sent the contest into overtime. Even salvaging a tie would not have happened for Crockett if Cole Summar had not knocked down a trey to provide the Cavs' lone fourth-frame field goal.

Young keyed Crockett's resurgence in the extra periods, hitting five of eight free throws. Davis Porter and Messiah McCurry both hit buckets for the Cavs in the overtimes to get the visitors back on the winners' side of things. Young made 10 of 14 free throws in the game to account for more than half of his 18 points as CCMS improved to 11-10 on the season. Brody Haley netted 11 and Will Dodds eight for the Cavs.

Jamari Jenkins paced Dyersburg with 12 points, including a pair of those fourth-quarter threes. CJ Bonds hit the other two and added a third in overtime to finish with nine tallies for the Trojans.

CCMS BOYS – JANUARY 16

Crockett (48) – Jeremiah Young 18, Brody Haley 11, Will Dodds 8, Cole Summar 3, Chris Vance 2, Messiah McCurry 2, Davis Porter 2, Jaylen Frye 2, Julian Carcamo 0, TEAM 15 FG, 14-23 FT. 3-Pointers: Young 2, Haley 1, Summar 1. Record: 11-10.

Dyersburg (42) – Jamari Jenkins 12, CJ Bonds 9, Isaac Zamzow 9, Kenyen Jelks 6, Brock Stanley 3, Frankie Barringer 2, Kylin Gourley 1, TEAM 14 FG, 9-20 FT. 3-Pointers: Bonds 3, Jenkins 2.