

# JORDYN MADDOX LEADS LADY CAVS TO SURPRISING UPSET OF DYERSBURG



**Above:** Jordyn Maddox knocked down a career-high 31 points to lead the Lady Cavaliers to a stunning 55-49 victory Friday night over defending state champion Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

Anyone familiar with the work ethic of Crockett County's Jordyn Maddox knew that Friday night's breakout game against defending state champion Dyersburg was just a matter of time.

In a sports world full of "look at ME" athletes, Maddox is a throwback of sorts. She's still just a sophomore, but has already shown the potential to be one of West Tennessee's top high school players. What really stands out about her, though, is that she'd just as soon NOT stand out.

Even in the aftermath of Friday's career-high 31-point performance in the stunning 55-49 victory over the Lady Trojans – in a most surprising fashion – Maddox was quick to defer credit and praise to her teammates, a trait that Coach Kayla Irvin says is the best thing about her.

"Our rebounding and defense were key tonight for us," Maddox said after the Lady Cavaliers – losers of three straight games after digging themselves into holes in the first quarter – held the powerful Lady Trojans to just 11 first-half points in zooming to an astonishing 24-point lead at the intermission. "Coach K has always told us 'the harder you work on defense the easier offense becomes because there's less pressure.' We knew Dyersburg would hit shots because they've got great shooters, but we were focused on not giving them more than one opportunity."

Offensively, Maddox racked up 18 points in that stunning 35-11 first half, but simply said it was because her teammates were responsible.

"I've been struggling with my three-point shots this season, but I finally found it tonight," she said after netting four of her five attempts. "Karlee (Castellaw) found me for so many of my shots and helped make it happen."

Maddox scored seven and Castellaw five in Crockett's 17-5 first-quarter run that mirrored what others had been doing to them in recent games. But then – for good measure – the Lady Cavs did it again in the second period, outscoring Dyersburg 18-6 in the frame and leaving fans wondering if they could believe what they had just seen. Maddox tallied 11 of those second-quarter points.

The lopsidedness occurred again in Quarter #3, but in the other direction. Dyersburg limited Crockett to a single field goal (by Maddox) to win the stanza 14-2 and shave the halftime deficit in half. Then, in the final quarter, the Lady Trojans' vaunted long-range shooters began to connect, draining six three-pointers.

Their problem, however, was that they were having to foul Crockett players often to get the ball back in their hands, but Maddox (8 of 10), Castellaw (5 of 8), and Keeton Holyfield (2 of 2) made enough free throws to thwart the Dyersburg comeback effort and leave both teams with identical 14-4 season records.

"I am so very proud of this team," Irvin said after the contest, which evened the Lady Cavs' district mark at 1-1 and handed Dyersburg its first district defeat. "From the tip, these girls competed in all the little (but BIG) details. After a great shooting performance in the first half, we withstood a third-quarter gut punch you can expect a great team like Dyersburg to make. Our toughness and grit in the fourth quarter to turn it around and battle back shows the heart these kids have every day in practice."

"I am most proud of the defensive effort each girl gave to contest every shot and stay in good position on the help side. They battled on the boards and took pride in doing their jobs well. Jordyn was magical tonight with the ball, but we have all known she was capable of a performance like that. To watch her teammates find her and get her the ball in great spots fills me up. It was truly an all-around team effort with each girl making big shots early, grabbing a huge board, getting two stops in a row, or making the extra pass to an open teammate."

"We are not perfect, but we are learning and growing with every dribble, and I am so thankful to be able to watch them rise and choose each other every day. This team could not care less who gets the credit. They want to win, and that makes me so proud. This team is fun and capable of so many wonderful things, but most importantly they are exceptional kids who do things the right way. I'm so thankful for all the people who stood up for them tonight in such a fun environment. It was a great night to be a Cav."

Castellaw backed Maddox with 12 points of her own. Gabby Bursey had six points on two big threes in the first half, and Amaria Walker added four. Joya Crawford led Dyersburg with 17, scoring 11 of those in the final period, and Aeria Quinn netted 14 and Chelby Jordan 11.

In the boys game that followed, Dyersburg coasted to a 65-38 triumph after opening up a 34-20 halftime edge and building on from there. No Crockett player managed to reach double figures in the scoring column, as Cade Freeman and Kevin Pledge were the team leaders with eight apiece. The Cavs dropped to 6-12 on the season.

Breyden Turnage collected 18 points for the 9-8 Trojans. AJ Higgins added 14, Jeff Cobb 12, and Jace Ward 11 in the visitors' balanced attack.

Both Crockett teams stay in district play for their next outing, a Tuesday night doubleheader in Troy against Obion County.

**GIRLS GAME #18 - JANUARY 17**

**Crockett (55)** - Jordyn Maddox 31, Karlee Castellaw 12, Gabby Bursey 6, Amaria Walker 4, Keeton Holyfield 2, Kira Bray 0, Halle Holyfield 0, TEAM 14 FG, 20-31 FT. 3-Pointers: Maddox 4, Bursey 2, Castellaw 1. Record: 14-4.

**Dyersburg (49)** - Joya Crawford 17, Aeria Quinn 14, Chelby Jordan 11, Briana Parr 4, Kalli Maclin 3, Kathleen Harrell 0, Lily Kate Jones 0, Kaliyah Lewis 0, Elizabeth Lemons 0, TEAM 18 FG, 5-12 FT. 3-Pointers: Crawford 3, Quinn 3, Jordan 1, Parr 1. Record: 14-4.

**BOYS GAME #18 - JANUARY 17**

**Crockett (38)** - Cade Freeman 8, Kevin Pledge 8, Preston Lambert 4, Andre Garduno 4, Zay Jones 4, Jayden Frye 3, DK Woods 3, Reed Leforgee 2, Nolen Turner 2, Grayson Lambert 0, Squirt Pickens 0, Cortland Reddick 0, Karson Kail 0, Carter Wren 0, Carson Webb 0, TEAM 15 FG, 5-11 FT. 3-Pointers - Frye 1, Woods 1, Freeman 1. Record: 6-12.

**Dyersburg (65)** - Breyden Turnage 18, AJ Higgins 14, Jeff Cobb 12, Jace Ward 11, Marcus Whorton 6, Cameron Rhines 2, Isiah Thomas 2, Ja'kayden Parr 0, Tookie Ragland 0, Demonte Johnson 0, Jayce Ellerbrook 0, Javon Smiles 0, Justin Sawyer 0, Will Short 0, TEAM 29 FG, 4-9 FT. 3-Pointers - Cobb 2, Turnage 1. Record: 9-8.



**Above:** Karlee Castellaw scored 12 points of her own and assisted on several baskets by Jordyn Maddox in the surprising Crockett triumph. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Gabby Bursey drilled two big three-pointers in the first half as Crockett raced to a 35-11 halftime lead over Dyersburg, keying the Friday night district win. (Photo by Ron Barry)

