

CROCKETT BASKETBALLERS SWEEP HOMECOMING DOUBLEHEADER WITH MILAN



Above: When does 2 = 3? When Crockett's Karlee Castellaw is red-hot, as she was Thursday night against Milan when she scorched the nets for 11 points in the game's first three-and-a-half minutes. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

From the opening note of a stellar rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" by Senior Class President Ella Cate Haynes, everything was clicking for Crockett County High School Thursday night at Bill Emerson Memorial Gymnasium.

Following a Homecoming ceremony in which senior Gayle Prescott was crowned as queen, and the rousing anthem by Haynes which ignited the home crowd, senior Karlee Castellaw took it from there and produced a scorching 11 points in less than three-and-a-half minutes to set in motion one of the most incredible quarters of offensive basketball Crockett has ever seen.

Firing flawlessly from long range, Castellaw netted 11 of the Lady Cavaliers' first 13 points, igniting an attack that then featured junior Keeton Holyfield drilling in 10 of the next 20. Crockett totaled 33 first-quarter points on the way to a 65-19 crushing of Milan that was only that close because of a running clock the entire second half.

Crockett's boys kept the good times rolling in the nightcap of the doubleheader, riding Cade Freeman's 16 points, 13 from Preston Lambert, and 10 more from Kevin Pledge in a 45-31 victory highlighted by a hustling defensive effort by Coach Rick Rudesill's squad.

In the girls contest, Coach Kayla Irvin's Lady Cavs knocked down 11 three-pointers, including four by Castellaw, who finished with 14 points in extremely limited minutes. Holyfield contributed a career-high 12 to the Crockett cause, and the pair combined for 21 of the tallies as the hosts zoomed to a 33-5 first-quarter advantage.

Jordyn Maddox scored nine of her 12 points in the second frame as Irvin's club stretched the margin to 53-12 despite a steady flow of reserves coming in and out. Audrey Whitby came off the bench and knocked down a couple of threes as the Lady Cavs improved their season record to 16-4 with the non-district win. Nyah Cathey also had a trey and Baylee Griggs scored her first bucket of the season.

Rudesill mixed up his starting lineup a bit for the becoming of the boys matchup, trying to break a streak of games in which the Cavs have started very slowly. The new blend applied more energy than in previous recent games, and when the team's leading scorer Freeman - who came off the bench in this one - nailed a three-point shot at the 3:59 mark of the first period, Crockett enjoyed a 6-4 lead and never trailed again.

Pledge soon followed with an "and-one" three-point play for a 9-4 edge, and the hosts were headed to a 13-8 margin by the end of the quarter. Baskets by Freeman and Pledge pushed the lead to double digits with 1:16 to go before intermission, but a late Milan run made it 25-19 at the half.

Lambert, who scored 10 of his 13 points in the second half, nailed a three-pointer with 6:54 remaining in the game to restore the double-digit edge at 37-27. A put-back basket by DK Woods and a couple of free throws by Freeman made the lead 41-27 with 5:11 to play, and the visiting Bulldogs never seriously threatened a comeback as Crockett improved to 7-13 on the season.

Both Cav teams are off until next Tuesday, when district play resumes with a home twin bill against Dyer County. South Gibson will be in Alamo for a Thursday night rematch, and the Crockett teams will make up a snow-out when they host Henry County on Saturday.

GIRLS GAME #20 - JANUARY 23

Crockett (65) - Karlee Castellaw 14, Keeton Holyfield 12, Jordyn Maddox 12, Amaria Walker 7, Audrey Whitby 6, Gabby Bursey 5, Nyah Cathey 3, Halle Holyfield 2, Wesley Thornton 2, Baylee Griggs 2, Ellie Henderson 0, Chloe Adkisson 0, TEAM 23 FG, 8-10 FT. 3-Pointers: Castellaw 4, K Holyfield 2, Whitby 2, Bursey 1, Maddox 1, Cathey 1. Record: 16-4.

Milan (19) - Piper Depriest 5, Allie Grant 5, Tara Neely 2, Arryanna Metcalf 2, Raela Curry 2, CoCo Thomas 2, Maddie Hayes 1, Aaliyah Stephens 0, Libby Dunlap 0, Tieanna Adkisson 0, Maycee Masters 0, Dynastie Douglass 0, Jaliyah Hale 0, TEAM 6 FG, 6-12 FT. 3-Pointers: Depriest 1. Record: 10-8.

BOYS GAME #20 - JANUARY 23

Crockett (45) - Cade Freeman 16, Preston Lambert 13, Kevin Pledge 10, Jayden Frye 2, Andre Garduno 2, DK Woods 2, Grayson Lambert 0, Squirt Pickens 0, Zay Jones 0, Cortland Reddick 0, TEAM 15 FG, 12-18 FT. 3-Pointers - P Lambert 2, Freeman 1. Record: 7-13.

Milan (31) - Nants Lickliter 8, Kaleb Moore 6, Jayden Brown 6, Jayden Williams 5, Skylan Phinnessee 4, Izara Clark 2, Keondre Hawkins 0, Adrian Spain 0, Tyree Armstrong 0, Christian Carter 0, TEAM 13 FG, 3-4 FT. 3-Pointers - Lickliter 2. Record: 5-13.



Above: The Lady Cavaliers' 33-point opening quarter gave Crockett cheerleader Ava North-Hall plenty to yell about. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: The Cavalier Crazies were in full force Thursday night, and front-row "hecklers" (all in good fun) Garet Rawson, Callan Willis, and Brady Fronabarger -- and the ladies that put up with them -- had an appropriate question for the visiting Milan Bulldogs: "Who's A Good Boy?" (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: The always-hustling Halle Holyfield is on the floor fighting for a loose ball with the Lady Bulldogs' Tieanna Adkisson. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: When Karlee Castellaw took a seat midway through the first period, Keeton Holyfield -- here wrestling the ball away from Tieanna Adkisson (23) and Piper Depriest (4) -- netted 10 of the next 20 Lady Cavalier points on her way to a career-high 12. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jordyn Maddox (13) slips past the Milan defense to record two of her 12 points as teammate Amaria Walker (25) positions for a rebound that never came. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Crockett's Nyah Cathey looks for room to operate against Milan defender Tara Neely. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Reserve guard Audrey Whitby connected for a pair of three-pointers during her time on the floor for the Lady Cavs, who are now 16-4 on the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Making early exits after helping Crockett run up a big lead didn't prevent Jordyn Maddox (left) and Keeton Holyfield (right) from cheering vigorously for their teammates. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: ... that even brought a smile to her own face as she took an early place on the bench with the game well in hand for the hosts. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Coach Kayla Irvin takes a quick glance at the scoreboard after watching her Lady Cavs knocked down 11 three-pointers in Thursday night's win over Milan. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Lady Cavs Wesley Thornton (left) and Chloe Adkisson (right) battle with a Milan player obscured by her hair in Thursday's 65-19 Crockett rout. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: But what most will remember from Thursday's victory was the scorching start by Karlee Castellaw -- here working against Milan's Piper Depriest -- and the four instant three-pointers ... (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Before Thursday night's doubleheader began, CCHS presented its basketball Homecoming court: (from left) sophomore Jordyn Maddox, junior Berenice Amador, senior (and queen) Gayle Prescott, senior Stephanie Joyner, senior Lily Maddox, and freshman Kylie Butler. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's Cade Freeman made a lot of good things happen with drives to the basket, like this one against Milan's Christian Carter. Freeman scored 16 points in the contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Crockett's Makayla Murphy was ready to cheer on the Cavalier guys as they made their way onto the court for the night's second game. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Cav forward Preston Lambert, despite being sandwiched by Milan defenders on this inside shot, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: ... had one of his most productive games of the season, scoring 13 points, including two long-range bombs. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kevin Pledge (4) applies tough defense against Milan's Izara Clark. Pledge netted 10 points as Crockett put three players in double figures in the same game for the first time in a while. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Zay Jones tries to direct some traffic before making a drive attempt past Milan's Skylan Phinnessee. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: DK Woods (32) tries to back the ball into the lane area against Milan defender Izara Clark in Thursday night's Crockett win, its seventh in 20 starts this season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Cav point guard Squirt Pickens works his way around the top of the key as he runs a weave play in Thursday night's triumph over Milan. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Cade Freeman (13) works his way past Milan's Kaleb Moore (14) to get off this short shot for two of his 16 points in the 45-31 triumph. (Photo by Ron Barry)

