

OPENING-QUARTER BLITZ SPRAKS LADY CAVALIERS TO DISTRICT WIN OVER DYER COUNTY



Above: Crockett scored the game's first 17 points as Karlee Castellaw (2) was raining threes and her teammates were producing in transition. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

If there are any people out there who have ever questioned the toughness of Crockett County's Halle Holyfield, they can stop as of Tuesday night.

Playing in the fourth quarter of the Lady Cavaliers' 70-41 district victory over Dyer County, Holyfield was battling for a rebound when another player's head collided with her mouth area so forcefully it drove Holyfield's upper lip through her top set of teeth. Holyfield still came up with the ball, and - dripping blood all the way as she ran upcourt - passed the ball to an open teammate for an assist before racing straight to the locker room and eventually the emergency room.

That kind of play typified Crockett's overall effort Tuesday night as Coach Kayla Irvin's club stormed to a 23-9 first-quarter advantage - it was actually 17-0 before the Lady Choctaws even got on the board - as Karlee Castellaw was raining threes and her teammates shared buckets in transition. The margin was 41-22 by halftime, with the Lady Cavs getting boosts from reserve Kira Bray and Holyfield, who recorded her first double-figure scoring game.

While Dyer County trimmed the deficit on occasion in the third period, the visitors never narrowed it to single figures, and when it was all over, the difference was back up to 29 points.

Crockett's leading scorer on the season, sophomore Jordyn Maddox, netted a "sneaky" 20 points, scoring consistently throughout the contest. Castellaw finished with 15, including four three-balls. Holyfield added 10, and Amaria Walker and Bray each had eight, with Bray ably supporting Walker after the senior got in early foul trouble.

Holyfield's injury was initially thought to be a double laceration, but once the blood was cleaned off at the hospital, it was only one major cut. The doctor thought it would even actually heal better without stitches, so none were applied. Holyfield has already been cleared to play Thursday night's game against South Gibson.

Crockett will go into that contest with a 17-4 record and seeking to avenge its only district loss thus far. Dyer County, which was led by Tykeria Kennedy's 13 points, is now 10-9 on the year.

In the nightcap of Tuesday's doubleheader, Crockett's boys continued a trend of falling well behind in the first quarter - this time it was 27-7 - and effectively having no chance to sustain any meaningful comeback in the remaining time. While the final margin was 15 points, the contest was never close after the Choctaws scored the game's first 11 points.

Dyer County's Jayden Tyler delivered 13 points in that first-period run. After that, the Choctaws' balance took over - with four players in double figures - while post player Triston Sebourn blocked nearly every shot the Cavs attempted near the basket. Only Kevin Pledge managed to outmaneuver him a few times, recording a team-high 13 points for Crockett.

The Cavs fell to 7-14 for the season, while Dyer County improved to 6-15. Thursday's twin bill at Alamo begins at 6:00.

GIRLS GAME #21 - JANUARY 28

Crockett (70) - Jordyn Maddox 20, Karlee Castellaw 15, Halle Holyfield 10, Amaria Walker 8, Kira Bray 8, Keeton Holyfield 5, Ellie Henderson 4, Audrey Whitby 0, Gabby Bursey 0, Nyah Cathey 0, Wesley Thornton 0, Chloe Adkisson 0, TEAM 25 FG, 15-20 FT. 3-Pointers: Castellaw 4, Maddox 1. Record: 17-4.

Dyer County (41) - Tykeria Kennedy 13, Allijah Robinson 8, Anitra Honore 8, Zya Currie 6, Ava Pearson 4, Marley Morgan 2, Emma Ables 0, Julie Cogdell 0, Molly Roberts 0, Alexis Parkin 0, Karson Key 0, Jamesha Watson 0, Anna Tatum 0, TEAM 14 FG, 10-17 FT. 3-Pointers: Kennedy 2, Currie 1. Record: 10-9.

BOYS GAME #21 - JANUARY 28

Crockett (48) - Kevin Pledge 13, Zay Jones 10, Preston Lambert 7, Cortland Reddick 7, Andre Garduno 4, Cade Freeman 2, Jayden Frye 2, DK Woods 2, Squirt Pickens 1, Grayson Lambert 0, Reed Leforgee 0, Karson Kail 0, TEAM 18 FG, 9-21 FT. 3-Pointers - Jones 2, Reddick 1. Record: 7-14.

Dyer County (63) - Jayden Tyler 16, Devin Hayward 14, Pereon Isom 11, Triston Sebourn 10, Jamin Gauldin 7, Clay Dodds 4, Ryker Hayes 1, Grant West 0, TEAM 20 FG, 20-31 FT. 3-Pointers - Tyler 3. Record: 6-15.



Above: Kira Bray played some solid minutes in the post Tuesday night after starter Amaria Walker picked up some early fouls. Bray scored eight points off the bench. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Halle Holyfield (20) -- with her cousin Keeton racing behind her -- tries to convert a transition basket in Tuesday night's district win over Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jordyn Maddox puts up this fourth-quarter shot over the Lady Choctaws' Amitra Honore to reach the 20-point plateau in Tuesday night's Crockett victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Karlee Castellaw peeks around the outstretched arms of Dyer County defender Tykeria Kennedy as she searches for an open teammate. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Keeton Holyfield (15) and Audrey Whitby (10) talk strategy while a teammate shoots a free throw in the fourth quarter of the Lady Cavalier triumph over Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Lady Cav Coach Kayla Irvin provides some direction during an offensive play in Tuesday night's district win. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Halle Holyfield drains the free throw which puts her into double figures in a game for the first time this season. She would then suffer a painful facial injury seconds later, but will be okay to play again Thursday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: An indication of how rough this game was physically is the bandage covering a bloody injury on the elbow of Karlee Castellaw, who played through it and scored 15 points, including netting four three-pointers. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Jordyn Maddox hit a shot just before the halftime buzzer, and is congratulated here by Karlee Castellaw before they headed into the dressing room. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jordyn Maddox gets a pass out to Gabby Bursey (4), evading the defensive effort of Dyer County's Ava Pearson. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: The story of the boys' game was this: Dyer County's Triston Sebourm (30) blocking nearly everything that got near the net. Crockett's Andre Garduno was the victim on this one, but Sebourm seemingly got a piece of every Cavalier's shot at some point in the contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett senior cheerleader Melanie Meza, arms extended during a Cavalier free throw attempt, eyes the shot as it travels toward the basket. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: This game will mostly be remembered for the hustling play of Halle Holyfield and the toughness she displayed at the end when her lip was injured. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Cortland Reddick (14) applies defensive pressure to a Choctaw player during the third period of Tuesday night's 63-48 defeat, in which Reddick scored seven points. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jayden Frye wrestles for the ball while Preston Lambert defends from the back side as Crockett challenges Dyer County's Triston Sebourn on this play. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Kevin Pledge (4) was the most successful Cavalier in evading the long arms of Choctaw post player Triston Sebourn, notching 13 points for Crockett. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Jayden Frye (23) and Squirt Pickens (behind Frye) defend against this drive by Dyer County's Jamin Gauldin (12) in Tuesday night's loss to the Choctaws. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Dyer County effectively put the game away in the first quarter with a 17-1 run to begin the game, including 13 points from Jayden Tyler (1). (Photo by Ron Barry)