

# LADY CAVS SURVIVE LATE HENRY COUNTY RALLY; CROCKETT GUYS NOT AS FORTUNATE



**Above:** Once assistant coach Brent Fronabarger helped her reset during a brief stint on the bench, Jordyn Maddox came back out on fire, drilling three treys and piling up 19 points in 20 minutes. (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

When you've been a baseball pitcher back in your athletic days - especially one good enough to be a collegiate standout - you've pretty much experienced every emotion there is to feel.

If you add in a lengthy coaching career, then it's likely you can quickly spot an athlete who is out of sorts.

Such was the case Saturday afternoon in Bill Emerson Memorial Gymnasium when Crockett County hosted Henry County in a basketball doubleheader originally postponed by the early January snowfall. And the "out of sorts" athlete - in a very rare situation - was Jordyn Maddox.

Maddox, the Lady Cavaliers' leading scorer this season, got off to an extremely slow start against the visiting Lady Patriots, slogging through a pointless first quarter and having nothing going any better for the first two minutes of the second as Crockett fell behind 23-16. The Crockett coaching staff decided to bring her to the bench to try to reboot.

After a few minutes, Lady Cav assistant coach Brent Fronabarger - he of the baseball pitching background - called Maddox over to sit next to him, spoke to her briefly, and sent her back into the fray. By that time, Amaria Walker had scored on an assist from Karlee Castellaw and Castellaw herself had drained her third three-pointer of the first half to cut the deficit to 23-21.

In the remaining 20 minutes of the contest, Maddox rang up 19 points - every one of them important - as the Lady Cavs squeezed out a 63-60 victory for their eighteenth win in 23 starts this season.

So what did Fronabarger say to Maddox? "I told her to quit feeling sorry for herself," the always-to-the-point Fronabarger said. "Every time Jordyn touches the ball she can hear people all over the gym shouting for her to shoot it. Today she was forcing it before she was ready. I told her to just let the game come to you; stop listening to the voices and just play your game. It's so rare that Jordyn has a stretch like this, but it happens to everybody. She just needed a little reset."

After Maddox re-entered, point guard Gabby Bursey immediately hit two three-pointers and then Maddox followed with a couple more, all within a three-minute span. And when Walker banked in a layup with 3.8 seconds left in the half, Crockett had completed an astounding 19-2 run that produced a 35-25 halftime advantage.

Coach Kayla Irvin's club pushed the margin as high as 12 in the third quarter, but when Henry County's Breely Pierpoint made a free throw with just 2:27 left in the game, Crockett's lead was down to 56-52.

Walker scored again and Castellaw netted a free throw to keep the Lady Cavs up 59-54, but then Henry County's Olivia Kendall nailed a long three-pointer to make it 59-57. The visitors fouled Castellaw with 1:01 to go, and the senior calmly swished both charity shots to make it 61-57 - only to have Kendall again come down and drill an even longer trey to make it 61-60 with 37.6 ticks on the clock.

Irvin avoided two potential ballhandling snafus by calling timeouts at the 24.8 and 21.0 marks, and when the Lady Cavs finally got the ball away from the sideline traps, Maddox was fouled with 18.6 seconds remaining. Two swishes later, it was 63-60.

Crockett's defense stiffened as the Lady Patriots couldn't find a good shot, calling another timeout with only 6.1 seconds to play. Irvin inserted lanky center Kira Bray to guard the inbounds pass, making it difficult for Henry County to get it where they wanted it. Bray then stayed with Kendall, who received a return pass after the inbounds, and altered the arc of the ensuing shot enough that it went all the way over the rim.

After another timeout - this time with 0.8 seconds on the clock - all that remained was for Castellaw to get it inbounded, which she did to Maddox, securing the victory.

Castellaw netted 14 points, including five of six key fourth-period free throws. Maddox was a perfect 4-for-4 from the line in the final stanza in reaching her 19 points. Walker and Bursey added 12 apiece, giving Crockett four double-figure scorers. Na'Kiyah Mare paced Henry County with 20, while Kendall had 14 and Eva Eaton added 12.

In the boys' matchup that followed, Henry County came in with a 17-3 record but got all it could handle from the scrappy Cavaliers. Although the hosts trailed 12-8 after the opening frame, five Kevin Pledge points kept them within 26-23 at the halftime break.

By the end of the third, Coach Rick Rudesill's squad was still very much in it, trailing just 43-37. Crockett pulled even at 46-46 when Cortland Reddick produced a couple of buckets and Preston Lambert scored off a feed from Zay Jones.

Henry County's Colby Stallings put the visitors back out front with a basket at the 2:53 mark, but Reddick answered again to tie it with 2:24 to go. The Cavs regained possession after a Patriot miss and called timeout with 1:28 remaining, having plenty of time to work for the shot they wanted.

But just as they done in the final minute of Thursday's near-upset of South Gibson, the Cavs turned it over on a wayward bounce pass. Carson Card then tallied his only basket of the game for Henry County, providing a 50-48 edge with 42.3 seconds left. Jones missed a driving runner in the lane for Crockett, but the Cavs got yet another chance after a Patriot missed free throw.

This time, on another drive into traffic in the lane, the ball was deflected off the dribbler's leg and went out of bounds with 13.9 ticks remaining. Henry County then sealed the 52-48 win when no Cav covered the back door on the lengthy inbounds pass, and Stallings sailed in for the clinching layup.

Jones totaled 12 points, Lambert 10, and Reddick nine to pace the Cavs, now 7-16. Jamari Foster, who tallied 14 of his 16 points in the opening half, led the Partiot offense.

Both Crockett teams jump back into district play Tuesday night at Dyersburg.

**GIRLS GAME #23 - FEBRUARY 1**

**Crockett (63)** - Jordyn Maddox 19, Karlee Castellaw 14, Gabby Bursey 12, Amaria Walker 12, Halle Holyfield 2, Keeton Holyfield 2, Ellie Henderson 2, Kira Bray 0, TEAM 17 FG, 20-25 FT. 3-Pointers: Castellaw 3, Maddox 3, Bursey 3. Record: 18-5.

**Henry County (60)** - Na'Kiyah Mare 20, Olivia Kendall 14, Eva Eaton 12, Irelynn Beecham 8, Ali Taylor 4, Breely Pierpoint 2, Jenna Harrel 0, Reed Jackson 0, TEAM 20 FG, 15-20 FT. 3-Pointers: Kendall 2, Beecham 2, Eaton 1. Record: 11-10.

**BOYS GAME #23 - FEBRUARY 1**

**Crockett (48)** - Zay Jones 12, Preston Lambert 10, Cortland Reddick 9, Kevin Pledge 7, Jayden Frye 6, Cade Freeman 3, Squirt Pickens 1, DK Woods 0, TEAM 18 FG, 6-11 FT. 3-Pointers - Jones 3, P Lambert 2, Reddick 1. Record: 7-16.

**Henry County (52)** - Jamari Foster 16, Colby Stallings 15, Tristan Grgic 8, Aden Jackson 5, Dalton Raymer 3, Luke Stephens 3, Carson Card 2, Drew Pack 0, TEAM 18 FG, 12-22 FT. 3-Pointers - Foster 1, Raymer 1, Stephens 1, Stallings 1. Record: 18-3.



**Left:** Crockett's Jordyn Maddox makes it tough for Henry County's Olivia Kendall to get this shot off. Maddox scored 19 points in the game's final 20 minutes to help the Lady Cavs win 63-60. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Early heads-up play by Karlee Castellaw and Gabby Bursey produced a basket when Castellaw, while on her knees after grabbing a loose ball, saw Bursey break behind the defense toward the basket, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** ... and Castellaw looped her a perfect assist pass with her off-hand to help Bursey net the bucket. Castellaw scored 14 and Bursey 12 for the winners. (Photo by Ron Barry)





**Above:** Amaria Walker (25) and Jordyn Maddox (13) teamed so effectively on this defensive effort that the ball got mashed back into the Henry County player's face. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Point guard Gabby Bursey tries to speed up the Crockett offense with this dash toward the top of the key. Bursey hit two consecutive threes in the middle of the Lady Cavs' decisive 19-2 second-quarter run. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Crockett's Halle Holyfield (20) works against the Lady Patriot's Eva Eaton. Holyfield scored a big fourth-period basket for the Lady Cavs as they improved to 18-5. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** It was "Bombs Away" early again for Karlee Castellaw, continuing her stretch of success from long range. Castellaw hit three in the opening half and then added five fourth-quarter free throws to help secure the win. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Amaria Walker was effective inside for the Lady Cavs, producing 12 points as Crockett placed four players in double figures in the scoring column. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Keeton Holyfield awaits a potential rebound on a Henry County free throw attempt. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Crockett County School District athletic director Duke Kail -- who does an outstanding job navigating all the schedules, play areas, and youth leagues for Cavalier teams -- checks his phone for messages during Saturday's doubleheader. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Crockett's Cortland Reddick focuses on the ball as he guards Henry County's Jamari Foster. Reddick had nine points for the Cavs, including six down the stretch. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Zay Jones draws the Patriot defense toward him on this drive to the lane before kicking it off to Preston Lambert for the game-tying bucket in the fourth period. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Cade Freeman tries to muscle this shot up among a tangle of Henry County arms in second-half action Saturday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** In the early going, Crockett had the hardest time coping with Henry County's Jamari Foster, here cutting between Cortland Reddick and Preston Lambert to lay in two of his 14 first-half points. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Jayden Frye looks for an open cutter as he glances toward the lane in Saturday's contest with Henry County. Frye made baskets that twice put Crockett on top in the second quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Left:** Preston Lambert scored 10 points and made the game-tying basket at 46-46 with 3:59 left to play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** It's likely this young fan was impervious to the closeness of Saturday's finale, but she seemed to be having a good time anyway. (Photo by Ron Barry)

