

CAV HOOPERS GIVE SUPREME EFFORT IN OVERTIME LOSS AT DYERSBURG; LADY CAVS DRILLED



Above: Crockett's Jayden Frye didn't care if there was a hand in his face Tuesday night at Dyersburg. Frye scored an astonishing 12 points in 93 seconds on four consecutive threes, on his way to 19 points in the contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

They simply finally ran out of magic bullets.

Crockett County's basketball Cavaliers put forth a Herculean effort on the road at Dyersburg Tuesday night, summoning one of their most inspired performances of the season, but coming up just short 72-68 after forcing an overtime period against the talented Trojans.

The Cavs rained down a season-high 13 three-pointers in the contest, including one amazing stretch in the second quarter in which reserve guard Jayden Frye nailed a trey on four consecutive possessions down the floor, racking up 12 points in the unbelievable span of just 93 seconds. Frye shot Crockett right back into the game after the Cavs trailed 17-10 at the end of the opening period.

But he had plenty of long-range company. Four other Cavs drilled multiple threes: Kevin Pledge, DK Woods, Cortland Reddick, and Zay Jones all added two apiece, and Cade Freeman – who supplied the bulk of Crockett's inside scoring during the night – completed the party with his single three. That one came with five seconds remaining before the half and tied the duel at 35-35 at the intermission.

In fact, the final seven field goals in the second quarter were all three-pointers and helped to overcome an eight-point deficit.

That comeback appeared to be for naught, however, when Dyersburg managed to pull ahead by 11 points – 57-46 – entering the fourth frame. But Freeman suddenly began to make some plays in the paint for the visitors, driving for two straight buckets to make it 57-52. Reddick then netted a three, and it was 57-55 with 4:59 still to play.

Dyersburg got a basket from their 6-7 center Breyden Turnage – headed to Mississippi State in the fall to play football – and regained a four-point edge. When Jace Ward added a free throw with just 1:15 to go, it looked bleak for the Cavs.

But with 36.6 seconds remaining, Frye was foolishly fouled on another three-point attempt and calmly stepped to the foul line to swish all three charity shots, cutting the gap to 61-58. The host Trojans received a basket from Will Short – his only points of the game – to go back up by five with time running out.

Woods nailed a triple from the left corner with 14.8 ticks left on the clock, and the Cavs quickly fouled. Dyersburg's Ward only made one of the two, leaving time for Jones to race down the floor and pull up near the key to nail the game-tying three with 4.2 seconds to go, sending the contest into overtime.

Crockett struck first at the 3:06 mark when Pledge – you guessed it – splashed another three-pointer. But the Trojans quickly countered with a bucket and then another after a Cav turnover. And when the Cavs failed to grab a couple of defensive rebounds in the next minute, the hosts were able to slip Turnage inside for another score to make it 70-67 with 1:33 to play.

Freeman hit one of two free throws to get Crockett back within two, but turned the ball over on a bad bounce pass on its next possession and ended up fouling Marcus Whorton on a drive to the basket with only 12.1 seconds remaining. Higgins was hurt on the play and left the game; his replacement, Jayce Ellerbrook, ignored the pressure and calmly sank both free throws to ice it for the hosts.

Despite the defeat, the Cavs played with such heart – and kept defying the odds with their comebacks – that the Crockett fan base remained engaged throughout the encounter and was as loud on the late baskets by Woods and Jones as the large Dyersburg crowd. Crockett's play certainly belied its now 7-17 record. The Trojans improved to 11-11.

Frye ended up with a career-high 19 points for the Cavs, with Freeman adding 15, Pledge 10, Woods and Jones seven apiece, and Reddick six. Ward produced 18 and Turnage 17 for the winners.

As gallant as the fight was that the Cavaliers put up, that same resistance was missing from the Crockett side in the girls game that opened the night's twin bill. The Lady Cavs, who handed the defending state champion Lady Trojans their lone district loss earlier this season, played as if there was little (if any) chance for a repeat.

Dyersburg's total dominance of the game is easily illustrated by this astounding stat: after Crockett's Keeton Holyfield scored a bucket to get the Lady Cavs to within 10-8 in the first quarter, the Lady Trojans tallied 34 of the next 37 points. Crockett's two leading scorers for the season – Jordyn Maddox and Karlee Castellaw – didn't score until the final period, when the Lady Cavs were already behind 44-11.

That result was exacerbated by the fact that Dyersburg's top performer, Joya Crawford, picked up two foolish fouls in the game's first 90 seconds. When she remained in the game, Crockett made no effort to go directly at her to try to draw a third infraction; consequently, she stayed on the court and ended as Dyersburg's top scorer with 19 points, supported ably by Chelby Jordan's 18.

The Lady Cavs only tallied one point in the entire second quarter and two in the third. The final count of 49-22 was only that close because the visitors doubled their total in the final frame. Maddox and Gabby Bursey ended up as Crockett's top point-getters – with only five apiece.

Dyersburg is now 19-4, while the Lady Cavs dropped to 18-6. Both Crockett teams continue district play Friday night, hosting Obion County in a 6:00 doubleheader.

GIRLS GAME #24 - FEBRUARY 4

Crockett (22) - Jordyn Maddox 5, Gabby Bursey 5, Karlee Castellaw 2, Amaria Walker 2, Halle Holyfield 2, Keeton Holyfield 2, Ellie Henderson 2, Wesley Thornton 2, Kira Bray 0, TEAM 9 FG, 3-6 FT. 3-Pointers: Maddox 1. Record: 18-6.

Dyersburg (49) - Joya Crawford 19, Chelby Jordan 18, Kalli Maclin 5, KK Strayhorn 3, Aeria Quinn 3, Briana Parr 1, Lily Kate Jones 0, Elizabeth Lemons 0, TEAM 21 FG, 3-6 FT. 3-Pointers: Strayhorn 1, Jordan 1, Quinn 1, Crawford 1. Record: 19-4.

BOYS GAME #24 - FEBRUARY 4 - OVERTIME

Crockett (68) - Jayden Frye 19, Cade Freeman 15, Kevin Pledge 10, DK Woods 7, Zay Jones 7, Cortland Reddick 6, Squirt Pickens 2, Preston Lambert 2, Grayson Lambert 0, TEAM 22 FG, 11-20 FT. 3-Pointers - Frye 4, Pledge 2, Woods 2, Reddick 2, Jones 2, Freeman 1. Record: 7-17.

Dyersburg (72) - Jace Ward 18, Breyden Turnage 17, Jeff Cobb 14, AJ Higgins 6, Isaiah Thomas 6, Jayce Ellerbrook 4, Marcus Whorton 3, Will Short 2, Travon Smiles 2, Cameron Rhines 0, Justin Sawyer 0, TEAM 24 FG, 19-31 FT. 3-Pointers - Ward 2, Higgins 1, Cobb 1. Record: 11-11.



Left: Cade Freeman (13) drives into the lane against Dyersburg's Jace Ward (0) to score two of his 15 points in Tuesday night's overtime defeat to the Trojans. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Zay Jones -- with a stunned Dyersburg student section in the background - sent the Crockett fans into a frenzy when he nailed this contested three-point shot with 4.2 seconds left in regulation to send Tuesday night's game into overtime. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Cortland Reddick sank this trey to bring Crockett within 57-55 with just 4:59 to go in regulation against Dyersburg. Reddick was one of five Cavaliers to make multiple threes in the game. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Preston Lambert hangs onto the ball as AJ Higgins displays the type of aggressive defense that the Trojans apply all over the court. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Crockett's cheer squad is lined up for a free throw attempt by the Cavs' Cade Freeman, sending him positive vibes as he prepares his shot. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Dyersburg has a potent weapon in 6-7 post player Breyden Turnage, but the Cavs' DK Woods (32) contests him on this first-half shot in the paint. Woods hit two three-pointers for Crockett. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Grayson Lambert was fouled from behind on this strong drive to the basket as Crockett didn't just settle for launching long-range bombs. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Jayden Frye -- here receiving the ball from an official -- also tormented the Trojans with 36.6 seconds remaining when he drained all three free throws after being fouled on a long-range shot. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Jayden Frye was definitely feeling it in the second quarter, celebrating here after his third straight three-pointer forced a Dyersburg timeout. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Cade Freeman challenges Breyden Turnage and Jace Ward to stop this drive to the basket during first-half action Tuesday night. Freeman had 15 points in the game for Crockett. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Kevin Pledge drilled this three-pointer over Breyden Turnage to briefly give Crockett the lead as the overtime period began. Pledge scored 10 points for the Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: DK Woods, who tallied seven points for the Cavs, works his way through a weave against a Trojan defender. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Cav cheerleaders Lexie Beard, Kennedy Henning, and Emmie Pickens shout their encouragement as Crockett battles into overtime with Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Crockett's Wesley Thornton utilizes a screen set by Kira Bray and scores this fourth-quarter basket in Tuesday night's Lady Cav loss to Dyersburg. Ellie Henderson (30) is in the background for Crockett. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Amaria Walker prepares to make a move to the basket against Dyersburg's excellent defender Kalli Maclin (25). (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Karlee Castellaw tries to maneuver around Dyersburg's All-State performer Joya Crawford, who led the Lady Trojans with 19 points Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jordyn Maddox fires a shot over the outstretched arm of Dyersburg star Chelby Jordan, a key performer in the Lady Trojan state tournament championship a year ago. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Gabby Burse was one of Crockett's top scorers in Tuesday night's loss to Dyersburg, but there wasn't much offense generated against the aggressive Lady Trojan defense. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Lady Cav manager deluxe Kinlee Walker is all concentration during this Kayla Irvin timeout. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Halle Holyfield kicks into gear as she tries to get past Dyersburg's Chelby Jordan. (Photo by Ron Barry)