

CAVALIER HOOPERS EXPERIENCE STRANGE END TO THEIR SEASON AT DYER COUNTY



And lest anyone begin to start throwing the words “sour grapes” around, let’s be clear about something else: The Cavaliers did not lose 70-42 to the Choctaws because of the strangely lopsided foul counts. They lost because they produced one of the most dismal shooting exhibitions on record, scoring just 14 first-half points and only 22 through the first three periods.

The game was extremely physical from the opening tip, and too much on-court taunting was occurring. Both teams were participating, and it didn't help the atmosphere.

All in all – honestly – it was simply an embarrassing display of less-than-stellar behavior. As only the teams in the district semifinals advance to region play, the Cavalier season is over at 7-20. Dyer County will move on to face #1 seed Obion County on Saturday night.

Crockett County actually led once in Monday’s game after Preston Lambert scored the game’s first bucket. But the Cavs then went almost five minutes before scoring again as the Choctaws went on a 9-0 run. Back-to-back field goals by Kevin Pledge brought Crockett to within 15-11 at the 4:43 mark of the second frame, but the hosts tallied eight of the next 11 points before the halftime break.

Dyer County steadily pulled away in the final half. The Cavs’ porous defense allowed Ryker Hayes – generally more of a role player for the Choctaws – to look like an All-American, as he produced a 20-point performance. Bo Dodds, who didn’t even score when these teams matched up last week in the regular season finale, added 14 for the winners.

Cade Freeman – with all but two of his points coming in the final half – paced Crockett with 12 points. Pledge, Crockett’s only real offensive threat in the opening half, netted six points. Zay Jones had all six of his tallies in the final quarter after the outcome had long been settled.

The spotlight now moves to Crockett’s Lady Cavaliers, who will face South Gibson – the only district team to beat them twice this season – on Friday night, weather permitting. The game is scheduled for a 6:00 start in Newbern. Crockett is already guaranteed a region tournament berth by virtue of its #3 district seeding.

BOYS – FEBRUARY 17

Crockett (42) – Cade Freeman 12, Kevin Pledge 6, Zay Jones 6, Reed Leforgee 4, Preston Lambert 4, Grayson Lambert 4, Squirt Pickens 3, Jayden Frye 2, Andre Garduno 1, Cortland Reddick 0, DK Woods 0, Karson Kail 0, Nolen Turner 0, TEAM 19 FG, 2-7 FT. 3-Pointers: Freeman 1, Pickens 1. Record: 7-20.

Dyer County (70) – Ryker Hayes 20, Bo Dodds 14, Jamin Gauldin 13, Devin Hayward 11, Tristan Seabourn 5, Jayden Tyler 4, River Johnson 2, Grant West 1, Clay Dodds 0, Chris Springer 0, Ben Mathina 0, Marquette Carter 0, TEAM 18 FG, 32-43 FT. 3-Pointers: B Dodds 1, Gauldin 1. Record: 8-19.

Above: Cav cheerleader Kinlee Moore, elevated by Mia Grace Simmons, tries to get the Crockett crowd revved up prior to the start of Monday night’s encounter with Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

Disguised as a high school basketball game, an episode of WWE Monday Night Raw was staged in Newbern last night.

Complete with bodies flying, boorish trash talking, and a glaringly uneven foul discrepancy, the District 13-AAA Tournament opener between Crockett County’s boys and host Dyer County could easily have been mistaken for a wrestling event.

And make no mistake: By the end of this encounter, both teams should have been ashamed of much of their behavior on the court.

That Dyer County shot 43 free throws to Crockett’s seven is hard to explain, but it happened. The Cavaliers also had two technical fouls called against them and a player ejected.



Above: An example of the physicality in Monday night's district tournament game is on display here as Crockett's Grayson Lambert tries to corral a rebound amidst a sea of slapping Dyer County hands, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... eventually finding himself on the court in an actual wrestling match for the ball with the Choctaws' Clay Dobbs. Grayson Lambert scored four points for the Cavs in the 70-42 defeat. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Kevin Pledge (4) was really the only Cav to find offensive success in the first half, netting six of Crockett's 14 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Birthday girl Lexie Beard cheers on the Cavaliers during first-half action in Monday night's District 13-AAA Tournament play-in game. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's leading scorer Cade Freeman survives a hack on each arm as he drives for the hoop in Monday's district tournament. Freeman produced 12 points to top the Cav offense. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Was Monday's game physical? The Cavs' Preston Lambert somehow got through this maze to score a put-back basket. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett coach Spencer Burse gives some instruction to guard Cortland Reddick during the second quarter of Monday's district tournament contest in Newbern. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett point guard Squirt Pickens looks for room around Dyer County's Jayden Tyler in the third period of Monday night's district tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Reed Leforgee scores on this short jumper in the lane in third-quarter action of Monday's District 13-AAA Tournament tilt with Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Zay Jones breaks away for a layup for two of his six points in Monday's 70-42 defeat to the host Choctaws. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Cade Freeman hit this three-point shot, one of only two successes from long range the Cavs could manage on a dismal shooting night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Preston Lambert drives into the lane to try to get something going inside for the Cavalier attack. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Andre Garduno (24) and Reed Leforgee watch an officials' huddle as they try to surmise what the latest whistle was about. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jayden Frye (23) fires a corner three-pointer in Monday's game; Crockett only connected on two treys in the contest, a major factor in the 70-42 defeat. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: With Crockett's boys now eliminated, these Cav cheer team members -- (from left) Gracie Gaines, Melanie Meza, and Carrington Smith -- will turn their encouragement in the direction of the Lady Cavaliers, who play Friday night at 6:00. (Photo by Ron Barry)