IMPROVED SHOOTING NETS CROCKETT BASKETBALL SWEEP OVER CHESTER COUNTY



Above: Keeton Holyfield fires up a three on her way to a 16-point performance against Chester County Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

It's amazing what a couple of early successful shots can do for basketball teams who are struggling to score.

Crockett County's Lady Cavaliers – who have been dismal from the field in their first four games – got an early three-pointer from Halle Holyfield, then another from Ellie Henderson, and then two more from Keeton Holyfield, all in a 16-0 run in the opening quarter, as Coach Kayla Irvin's club rolled to a 51-18 triumph over winless Chester County Tuesday night.

Crockett's boys continued to get solid play from Kevin Pledge and gained an early spark from the first start by Max Woods to open up a 17-8 first-period advantage on their way to a 65-44 rout of the visiting Eagles.

The sweep gave both Crockett teams a 2-3 record, but more importantly may have improved some confidence levels for their shooters.

In the opener, the Lady Cavs went up 16-0 before Chester County even got on the scoreboard, which finally occurred at the 3:37 mark of the first quarter. Crockett led 22-4 by the period's end and 34-9 at halftime. It didn't get better for the Eaglettes after the break. Chester County didn't score at all in the final quarter, even after Irvin emptied her bench.

Keeton Holyfield paced the Lady Cav scoring with 16. Henderson added eight – including a couple of threes – and Audrey Whitby netted six, Wesley Thornton five, and Kira Bray four. Crockett made seven three-pointers in the contest. Kloe Taylor led the Eaglettes with 12 points.

The nightcap wasn't much closer. Coach Spencer Bursey's Cavaliers raced to a quick lead and consistently maintained it for three periods before pulling away in the fourth with a stifling press that generated several easy fast-break baskets. The Cavs tallied 41 of their 65 points in the second half.

Pledge knocked down 18 points and Woods 15 for the winners, as both displayed savvy inside moves around the net. Jayden Frye added seven and Squirt Pickens and Ben Burgess each collected six. Pickens' speed on the Crockett press caused considerable havoc among the Chester County ballhandlers.

Jaden Williams scored 13 points and Jay Brown 11 for the Eagles, who dropped their fourth straight game after a season-opening win against Trinity Christian Academy.

Both Crockett squads hit the road Friday night for a doubleheader at Peabody. The Trenton teams squeaked out narrow wins over Crockett just last week in Alamo.

CCHS Girls GM 5: Dec 2 at Alamo
Chester Co 4 5 9 0 - 18
Crockett 22 12 9 8 - 51

Crockett – Keeton Holyfield 16, Ellie Henderson 8, Audrey Whitby 6, Wesley Thornton 5, Kira Bray 4, Halle Holyfield 3, Ruth Gourley 3, Callie Freeman 3, Torey Savage 2, Alice Luten 1, Tink Willis 0, Lola Bailey 0, Londyn Bray 0, Braniya Green 0, Addie Hoover 0, Sydney Smith 0, Baylee Griggs 0. 2-Pt FG: 8. 3-Pt FG: 7 (K Holyfield 3, Henderson 2, H Holyfield, Freeman). FT: 14-20. Record: 2-3.

Chester – Kloe Taylor 12, Esther Osburn 5, Alexis Rivers 1, Laura Rowsey 0, Savannah Williams 0, Izzy Knipper 0, Kamara Clark 0, Makayla Bridges 0, Carley Young 0, Alyssa Jenkins 0, Lyndsey Graves 0. 2-Pt FG: 6. 3-Pt FG: 1 (Osburn). FT: 3-5. Record: 0-5.

CCHS Boys GM 5: Dec 2 at Alamo
Chester Co 8 7 15 14 - 44
Crockett 17 7 17 24 - 65

Crockett – Kevin Pledge 18, Max Woods 15, Jayden Frye 7, Squirt Pickens 6, Ben Burgess 6, Corey Savage 4, Cortland Reddick 3, Karson Kail 2, Brelin Dunigan 2, Carter Wren 2, Amarion Hobson 0, Nolen Turner 0, DK Woods 0. 2-Pt FG: 26. 3-Pt FG: 2 (Burgess, Reddick). FT: 7-13. Record: 2-3.

Chester – Jaden Williams 13, Jay Brown 11, Elam Murphy 8, Braden Umstead 6, Gavin Brown 2, Jontae McNeal 2, Lane Estes 2, Jasce Alexander 0, Braylin Robinson 0, Jaden Weaver 0, Landon Langford 0, Alex Scaggs 0. 2-Pt FG: 11. 3-Pt FG: 4 (Murphy 2, Umstead 2). FT: 10-19. Record: 1-4.



Above: Kevin Pledge muscles in two of his game-high 18 points over Chester County's Jaden Williams Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Seeing Crockett shots actually going into the net was keeping a smile on the face of Cavalier cheerleader Auriana Taylor. (Photo by Ron Barry)



MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Crockett County Middle School returned to action Monday night, hosting a twin bill with Haywood. The visitors won both contests, with the girls prevailing 35-32 and the boys 52-33. Haywood's girls overcame a second quarter in which Crockett held the Lady Tomcats scoreless, as well as a 17-point effort by the Lady Cavaliers' Addie Whitby. Haywood's boys blew open a close game through three quarters with a 26-point explosion in the fourth to achieve their triumph, offsetting a 17-point performance by Crockett's Jordan Young.

CCMS will play another home doubleheader Thursday night against Huntingdon.

Haywood 35, Crockett Girls 32 (Dec 1)
Crockett – Addie Whitby 17, Khylee Cobb 4, Anna McCoy 4, Karmen Savage 4, Addison Ward 2, Bradlee Dodd 1.2-Pt FG: 11. 3-Pt FG: 0. FT: 10-15. Record: 7-7.

Haywood – Jayla Hall 11, Jordan Bond 8, Cynara Sangster 6, Chelsea Sheilds 5, Micalea Pugh 3, Amiya Trotter 2. 2-Pt FG: 6. 3-Pt FG: 4 (Hall 3, Sheilds). FT: 11-28.

Haywood 52, Crockett Boys 33 (Dec 1)
Crockett – Jordan Young 17, Jaylen Frye 7, Jayce Cobb 3, Easten Stephens 2, Cade Reasons 2, Theo Lawrence 2. 2-Pt FG: 8. 3-Pt FG: 4 (Young 2, Frye, Cobb). FT: 5-9. Record: 5-9.

Haywood – Branden Worles 19, Lament Tyus 12, CJ Whitmore 8, Tamarion Harwell 7, Cauden Jarrett 4, Tyson Braddix 1, Caleb Blair 1. 2-Pt FG: 22. 3-Pt FG: 0. FT: 7-17.



Above: Callie Freeman (21) retreats on defense after burying a three-pointer almost immediately after entering Tuesday night's game. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Max Woods, making his first varsity start, netted 15 points for the Cavaliers with a series of deft moves around the lane. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Ellie Henderson scored a season-high eight points for Crockett, nailing two three-pointers in the contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Corey Savage looks for operating room against the defense of Chester County's Jasce Alexander. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett cheerleader Eva Burleson keeps the crowd engaged during a timeout in Tuesday night's doubleheader. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Bodies were flying everywhere on this play as Halle Holyfield corrals the ball while cousin Keeton Holyfield tries to get back into the flow after being knocked down. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: The Cavalier Crazies were out in force Tuesday night, anxious to discharge some of their Thanksgiving-infused energy. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Squirt Pickens prepares to unleash his backcourt press speed on Chester County's Elam Murphy. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Scarlett Irvin -- daughter of Lady Cav Coach Kayla Irvin -- looks over her choices after settling on the winning number in one of Tuesday night's "Cake Walks." (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Crockett's Jayden Frye -- with teammates Squirt Pickens and Kevin Pledge right behind him -- initiates a fast break against Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: The Cavaliers' Nolen Turner (25) boxes out Chester County's Lane Estes as a shot goes up. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Ruth Gourley blazes toward the basket against the defense of the Eaglettes' Laura Rowsey. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Senior cheerleader Carrington Smith likes what she sees as both Crockett teams win by healthy margins Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Wesley Thornton races the ball upcourt in an attempt to initiate a fast break in Crockett's rout of Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett's Karson Kail prepares to put a move on Chester County's Landon Langford before driving into the lane. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: The three Crockett players on defense pictured here -- Lola Bailey (1), Addie Hoover (14), and Braniya Green -- all saw their first varsity action in Tuesday night's win. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Cav cheerleader Gabby Dobbelaire was "playing hurt" Tuesday night, persevering through a painful shin splint in her right leg to keep cheering the teams on. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Kevin Pledge (4) took this perfect pass from Squirt Pickens (00) past Chester County's Jay Brown ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: ... and stormed his way to the basket to score once again in leading the Tuesday night Cavalier offense. (Photo by Ron Barry)