FOUL NIGHT FROM THE FREE THROW LINE: CROCKETT DROPS PAIR TO PEABODY



Above: Crockett's Kevin Pledge managed to get this shot off with about a second left on the clock, but it rimmed out as the Cavs fell to Peabody 43-42. (Photo by Ron Barry)

If you're a fan of watching great shooting on the basketball court, and you weren't inside Emerson Memorial Gymnasium at Crockett County Tuesday night – well, consider yourself fortunate.

Those who did attend the doubleheader with Peabody High out of Trenton could be forgiven if they felt they had stumbled into a construction workers convention rather than a basketball game. A small village could have been built with all the bricks tossed around by the four teams who played in the twin bill.

If you're a Cavalier fan, this microcosm of the night is pretty much all you need to know: (1) Crockett's girls only made nine of 22 free throws – they lost by three points; and (2) Crockett boys only made three of 13 free throws – they lost by one.

Each contest came down to the wire. The Lady Cavaliers called a timeout with 19 seconds left in the opener, needing a three-pointer to tie the visitors. Coach Kayla Irvin's club managed to get off three long-range attempts in that time frame, but like most of the ones they'd launched earlier, they clanked off the rim, giving Peabody a 49-46 victory – its first after three defeats. The Lady Golden Tide had lost their season opener to South Gibson by 54 points.

In the boys matchup, Crockett called a timeout with 18 seconds remaining. Any field goal would win it. But upon barely getting the ball inbounded, the Cavs had a couple of passes deflected and the ball batted around until it finally found the hands of Crockett's Kevin Pledge, who only had a second to get off a 12-foot shot from the left side that rimmed out as the final buzzer sounded. Peabody – now 4-0 – got the triumph, 43-42.

There weren't many bright spots in the girls duel from Crockett's standpoint. Wesley Thornton – Crockett's top scorer this season – picked up two quick fouls, spent almost the entire first half on the bench, and never found her rhythm afterward. Nobody really picked up the slack as far as an inside game was concerned, and the Lady Cavs' woes from beyond the arc continued for the fourth consecutive contest.

Even with all that inaccuracy, Crockett had its chances. The hosts only trailed by one (37-36) entering the final quarter, and soon took the lead on a Thornton basket. After Peabody's Azarriah Wells drilled a three-pointer, Keeton Holyfield put the Lady Cavs ahead again by answering it with one of her own.

Wells struck again from deep to put the Tide up 43-41, but an "And-1" three-point play by Torey Savage shoved Crockett back in front 44-43 with 4:39 to play. Trenton's Paislee Walls knocked in a shot from the lane with 3:34 remaining and Avery Olson added a bucket at the 2:47 mark to give the visitors a 47-44 advantage.

Thornton scored again to pull Crockett back within one with 1:43 on the clock, but Walls muscled in another shot to make it 49-46 Peabody with 38 seconds remaining. The Lady Cavs got off their final flurry of long-range shots, but none came close to going down.

Keeton Holyfield netted 11 points and Halle Holyfield 10 for the hosts, who fell to 1-3.Walls and Wells each tallied 14 for the Golden Tide, with ZaKaysia Skinner adding 13.

The most remarkable thing about the guys game was that – once the contest was tied at 28-28 with 2:12 left in the third quarter – neither team led by more than a single possession the remainder of the duel. What wasn't remarkable was the shooting, or – more truthfully – the lack of it.

With 6:24 to play in the first half, the score was 9-9. Police were probably receiving noise complaints from the school's neighbors, wondering what all that clanging was about on campus. If the rims aren't bent in the gym on Wednesday, it's a miracle.

Three Crockett players were actually defying the night's odds and making shots. The Cavs' Kevin Pledge continued his solid season with a 14-point effort. Karson Kail came off the bench and hit both of the three-pointers he took in the third period, with the second one tying the score at 31-all with 1:12 left.

The biggest Cavalier surprise, however, was reserve Max Woods. Limited to "mop-up" duty in previous games – but showing promise with seven points in the fading minutes of Friday's win over Lexington – Woods entered this one in the second quarter and the hosts down 15-10. Woods then tallied the game's next five points and dished a perfect assist to Pledge for the go-ahead basket second later.

But in the fourth period, Woods maneuvered for three more buckets, each one giving the Cavs a two-point lead. The third one made it 42-40 with only 1:26 to play, and it looked like Coach Spencer Bursey's troops were on the verge of the upset.

The Golden Tide dagger came when LaTavean Cannon drilled a three-pointer from the right wing with 1:05 to go. Neither team would score again, despite the frenzied finish.
Both Crockett teams will resume their seasons December 2, hosting Chester County in a 6 p.m. doubleheader.

CCHS Girls GM 4: Nov 25 at Alamo
Peabody 11 19 7 12 - 49
Crockett 15 12 9 10 - 46

Crockett – Keeton Holyfield 11, Halle Holyfield 10, Wesley Thornton 7, Audrey Whitby 5, Ellie Henderson 4, Torey Savage 4, Ruth Gourley 3, Alice Luten 2, Callie Freeman 0. 2-Pt FG: 11. 3-Pt FG: 5 (H Holyfield 2, Whitby, K Holyfield, Gourley). FT: 9-22. Record: 1-3.

Peabody – Paislee Walls 14, Azarriah Wells 14, ZaKaysia Skinner 13, Avery Olson 8, Kyleigh Welch 0, Jayda Ramos 0, Jayci Browning 0, Emauni Pharms 0, 2-Pt FG: 14. 3-Pt FG: 5 (Wells 4, Skinner). FT: 6-11. Record: 1-3.

CCHS Boys GM 4: Nov 25 at Alamo
Peabody 9 6 19 9 - 43
Crockett 7 10 17 8 - 42

Crockett – Kevin Pledge 14, Max Woods 11, Karson Kail 6, Cortland Reddick 5, Jayden Frye 4, Corey Savage 2, Andre Garduno 0, Amarion Hobson 0, Squirt Pickens 0, Ben Burgess 0. 2-Pt FG: 15. 3-Pt FG: 3 (Kail 2, Reddick). FT: 3-13. Record: 1-3.

Peabody – Emmanuel Cannon 17, LaTavean Cannon 10, Max Hammond 5, Jayden Jennings 3, Zay Jelks 2, Noah Wolfork 2, Edward Agnew III 2, Ontario Agnew II 1, Jamarcus Haynes 1, Tavarious Ross 0. 2-Pt FG: 6. 3-Pt FG: 8 (E Cannon 3, L Cannon 3, Jennings, Hammond). FT: 7-10. Record: 4-0.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Crockett County Middle School completed its pre-Thanksgiving schedule Monday against Humboldt, with the girls winning 37-25 behind a 21-point performance from Addie Whitby before the boys suffered a lopsided defeat, 47-19. Humboldt raced to a 19-0 lead, holding the Cavs scoreless in the opening period.
CCMS resumes play December 1, hosting Haywood.

Crockett Girls 37, Humboldt 25 (Nov 24)
Crockett – Addie Whitby 21, Khylee Cobb 10, Lynlee King 4, Addison Ward 2. 2-Pt FG: 12. 3-Pt FG: 4 (Cobb 2, Whitby, King). FT: 1-3. Record: 7-6.

Humboldt – Jeremie Seward 15, Zendaya Thomas 6, Ariona Meadows 3, MaKenzi Whitney 1. 2-Pt FG: 9. 3-Pt FG: 0. FT: 7-21.

Humboldt 47, Crockett Boys 19 (Nov 24)
Crockett – Jaylen Frye 6, Brendan Green 5, Ryder Sanderlin 3, Messiah McCurry 2, Easten Stephens 2, Reese Jones 1. 2-Pt FG: 3. 3-Pt FG: 3 (Green, Frye, Sanderlin). FT: 4-6. Record: 5-8.

Humboldt – Bryce Duvall 11, Edward Agnew 10, Jaden Patterson 10, Joshua Pankey 4, Keylin Wedley 3, Andrew Ivy 3, Kylan Pettigrew 2, James Donald Jr 2, Que Brooks 2. 2-Pt FG: 21. 3-Pt FG: 0. FT: 5-11.



Above: The expressions on these faces reflect the Lady Cavalier shooting woes. Head coach Kayla Irvin is flanked by Brent Fronabarger and Tyler Gadlen as they watch Crockett shots fail to find the net. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Even with all the missed shots, cheer team member Kennedy Henning continued encouragement through the pair of nail-biting games. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Max Woods scored 11 points in impressive minutes for the Cavaliers against Peabody Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Wesley Thornton eyes the basket as Crockett engages the Lady Golden Tide in the frenzied fourth quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Karson Kail nailed this three-pointer -- his second of the third quarter -- to give Crockett its biggest lead of the night, a five-point advantage at 26-21. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Halle Holyfield checks the scoreboard before completing a three-point play that briefly gave the Lady Cavaliers the lead Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Right: Crockett cheerleader Jentry Elmore keeps the crowd revved up during a timeout. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Andre Garduno (24) appears to be going up strong for this shot in the early stages of Tuesday's game with Peabody ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... but the Golden Tide's Ontario Agnew II had other ideas, viciously swatting it away. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Ellie Henderson snuck into the lane for an early bucket in the Lady Cavs' duel with Peabody. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's Amy Mena keeps hoping some of the home team's shots will fall during Tuesday's doubleheader. (Photo by Ron Barry)







Left: Audrey Whitby drives for the basket as the Lady Cavs try to make something happen in the final period of Tuesday's narrow loss. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Lady Cav Keeton Holyfield applies defensive pressure to Peabody's ZaKaysia Skinner (12) as Crockett tries to rally in the fourth quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Peabody's LaTavean Cannon (12) celebrates his three-pointer -- which would end up being the game-winner Tuesday night -- as the Golden Tide bench joins in his joy. (Photo by Ron Barry)