12/5/2025 By Ron Barry

LADY CAVALIER PRESS DOMINATES PEABODY; GOLDEN TIDE BOYS CLOBBER CROCKETT

Above: Crockett reserve post player Alice Luten draws a charging foul from Peabody's Avery Olson as Lady Cav Ruth Gourley tries to block the shot from behind. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Just 10 days ago, Crockett County's Lady Cavaliers lost 49-46 to Peabody in Alamo in a game in which – living out the words of the legendary former Union University coach David Blackstock – "They couldn't hit water if they fell out of a boat."

Friday night in the rematch at Trenton, Coach Kayla Irvin's crew negated much of their shooting woes by slapping a relentless full-court press on the Lady Tide, producing scores of layups that led to a convincing 62-37 victory that evened the Lady Cavs' season record at 3-3.

Irvin's girls zoomed to a 10-0 advantage and continued to turn up the pressure for the remainder of the first half, opening up a 39-14 margin by the intermission and giving reserve players ample time in the final two quarters to gain some experience.

Senior Keeton Holyfield netted 16 points to spark the Crockett attack, ably supported by 12 points from sophomore Wesley Thornton, 11 from senior Halle Holyfield, and six apiece from reserve post players Torey Savage and Kira Bray. No Peabody player even reached double figures offensively, with Kyleigh Welch's nine tallies leading the way for the hosts, who dropped to 2-4 with the defeat.

The opposite story occurred in the doubleheader's nightcap. A statistician's head could have exploded – if not his calculator or computer – attempting to add up the number of turnovers committed by the Crockett boys as Peabody's ultra-quick and deep lineup hammered out a 78-42 drubbing of the visitors.

It was once said of long-ago baseball player James "Cool Papa" Bell that he was so fast, he could scorch a line drive up the middle and have it hit him in the back as he slid into second base. The Golden Tide – which was more like a Golden Tidal Wave Friday night – has about eight-to-10 guys that fast, and when they toss a press against their foes… well, that's probably as good a reason as any that they're now 6-0.

Peabody scored the first 10 points of the game, stretched the edge to 25-10 by the end of the opening period, boosted it to 45-22 by halftime, and then went even more fast and furious in the third stanza when they pushed the margin to more than 40 points.

No Crockett player reached double figures offensively, with Jayden Frye, Max Woods, and Ben Burgess sharing the top effort with eight points apiece. Cortland Reddick and Kevin Pledge netted six each. Jamarcus Haynes tossed in 18 to lead the Tide, which also received 14 points from Noah Wolfork and 11 apiece from Zay Jelks and Jayden Jennings.

Both Crockett squads return home Tuesday night for a twin bill rematch with Union City, which dealt the Cav teams a double defeat in the season opener.

CCHS Girls GM 6: Dec 5 at Trenton
Crockett 21 18 11 12 - 62
Peabody 6 8 11 12 - 37
Crockett – Keeton Holyfield 16, Wesley Thornton 12, Halle Holyfield 11, Torey Savage 6, Kira Bray 6, Ruth Gourley 3, Ellie Henderson 2, Audrey Whitby 2, Callie Freeman 2, Alice Luten 2, Tink Willis 0, Lola Bailey 0, Londyn Bray 0, Braniya Green 0, Addie Hoover 0, Sydney Smith 0, Baylee Griggs 0. 2-Pt FG: 19. 3-Pt FG: 3 (K Holyfield 2, H Holyfield). FT: 15-23. Record: 3-3.

Peabody – Kyleigh Welch 9, Paislee Walls 7, Avery Olson 6, Azarriah Wells 6, Emauni Pharms 4, Jayda Ramos 3, Za'Kaysia Skinner 2, Jayci Browning 0. 2-Pt FG: 7. 3-Pt FG: 6 (Welch 3, Walls, Ramos, Wells). FT: 5-6. Record: 2-4.

CCHS Boys GM 6: Dec 5 at Trenton
Crockett 10 12 10 10 - 42
Peabody 25 20 28 5 - 78
Crockett – Jayden Frye 8, Max Woods 8, Ben Burgess 8, Cortland Reddick 6, Kevin Pledge 6, Carter Wren 3, Karson Kail 2, Corey Savage 1, Squirt Pickens 0, Brelin Dunigan 0, Amarion Hobson 0, Nolen Turner 0, DK Woods 0. 2-Pt FG: 13. 3-Pt FG: 3 (Reddick 2, Wren). FT: 7-11. Record: 2-4.

Peabody – Jamarcus Haynes 18, Noah Wolfork 14, Zay Jelks 11, Jayden Jennings 11, Tavarious Ross 8, Emmanuel Cannon 6, Edward Agnew III 3, Onterio Agnew II 2, LaTaveon Cannon 2, Destin Wells 2, Max Hammond 1, Camelo Tyler 0, Ja'Hazia Smith 0. 2-Pt FG: 17. 3-Pt FG: 7 (Wolfork 2, E Cannon, Jelks, Haynes, Jennings, Agnew III). FT: 23-35. Record: 6-0.

Above: The Lady Cavs slapped a full-court press on the Lady Tide; even if Peabody broke it and managed to set up a half-court offense, the intimidating wingspan of Crockett point guard Wesley Thornton still faced the hosts. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: The fury of Crockett's press is illustrated here by Ellie Henderson (30), wrenching a loose ball from Peabody's Avery Olson by diving on the floor for it. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: Callie Freeman (with ball) spots teammate Ruth Gourley (4) cutting toward the basket during Friday night's rout of Peabody. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Hustle like that made it easy for cheerleader Aleigha Dunn to yell a little louder for the Lady Cavaliers. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's Keeton Holyfield (15) swipes this pass intended for Peabody's Kyleigh Welch (1) and takes off for the basket, followed by teammate Kira Bray. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Keeton Holyfield turned this steal into an easy layup, helping her rack up a team-leading 16-point performance. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Senior Halle Holyfield nails a three-pointer on her way to an 11-point effort against the Lady Tide in Trenton. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: Crockett's Ellie Henderson drives past Peabody's Paislee Walls (45) for a layup attempt in Friday's win. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: Ruth Gourley (left) and Audrey Whitby (right) apply the kind of pressure that created several steals and easy baskets for Crockett in Trenton. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: There wasn't much to cheer about in the boys' game for Crockett, but Ben Burgess managed to sneak this shot in past the block attempt by Peabody's Noah Wolfork. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: Carter Wren drilled in this three-point shot for the Cavaliers late in the contest in Trenton. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: More Crockett ball pressure is displayed here as Halle Holyfield (20) crowds Peabody's Paislee Walls into the path of Torey Savage, who is able to then steal the ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Wesley Thornton, who finished with 12 points, initiates another Lady Cav fast break after making a steal. (Photo by Ron Barry)

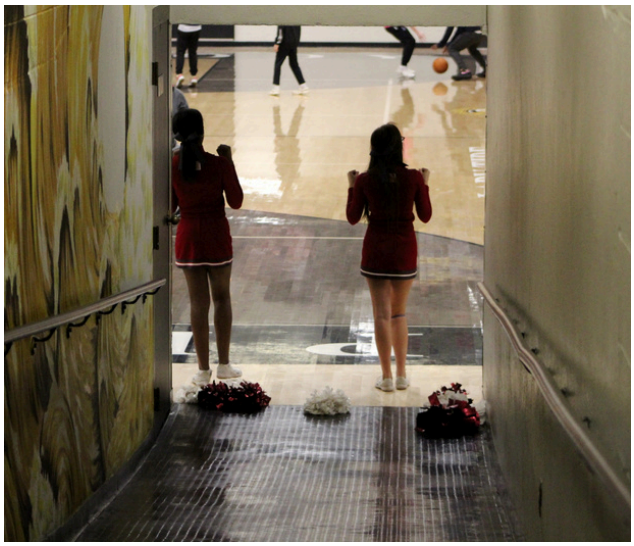
Above: Addie Hoover was disappointed to notice the appearance of The Grinch (left), but didn't let him steal the joy of Crockett's revenge victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Cortland Reddick, despite being hassled by Peabody's Christmas-dressed student section, netted this three-pointer to get Crockett on the board in the first quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: Crockett's mounting turnover total kept this look of frustration on the face of Coach Spencer Bursey for much of Friday's contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: DK Woods -- finally recovered from his football ankle injury -- tries to muscle in this drive against Peabody's formidable defense. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Since there hadn't been much to cheer about during Crockett's first half, Cav cheerleaders Auriana Taylor (left) and Addie Dunn (right) spent much of their halftime break practicing for better times. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Jayden Frye (23) knocks down two of his right points in Friday night's loss to Peabody. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: Kevin Pledge boxes out on a rebound attempt for the Cavaliers, who weren't able to grab many in the lopsided defeat to Peabody. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: Squirt Pickens tries to salvage a pass to Max Woods (34) after being hounded off his feet by the relentless and speedy Peabody press. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Karson Kail races up the left side of the court in front of the Peabody bench as he tries to break the Golden Tide press late in Friday's game. (Photo by Ron Barry)