01/13/26 By Ron Barry

CROCKETT COUNTY BASKETBALLERS DEFEATED IN PHYSICAL DISTRICT DOUBLEHEADER



Above: Physicality was the theme of the contest as Crockett's Kevin Pledge goes up for a shot and dodges a whack on both sides of his head from South Gibson's Ty Eddie (3) and Richard Addo (behind him). (Photo by Ron Barry)

In a game in which points were at a premium, a three-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer applied the dagger to Crockett County's Cavaliers Tuesday night in Alamo.

Coach Spencer Bursey's hustling Cavs were hanging in against an intense South Gibson County team which had made it extremely difficult to score all night – just as Crockett had done to the Hornets. As evidence, the score was 14-8 in favor of the hosts with just 1:15 remaining before halftime.

But now it was 25-19, South Gibson leading, when the Hornets' Cooper Yarbro let a three fly from as deep in the right corner as you can get as the buzzer sounded to end Period #3. The ball hit nothing but net, giving SGC a 28-19 advantage and taking most of the air out of the Crockett sails. It was the only triple the visitors would make in the entire game – but it re-lit the defensive energy for the Hornets, who then outscored the Cavs 11-3 in the final quarter to escape with a 41-22 district triumph.

Yarbro's three and Crockett's 10 missed free throws (out of the 15 it shot) were decisive factors in a contest that featured a variety of collisions, holds, hacks, blocks, and some form of contact on virtually every possession. The downward slide for the Cavs actually began at the start of the third stanza when Andre Garduno – who had blocked five SGC shots already and was keeping any damage from happening in the lane – picked up his third foul.

From that point on, South Gibson outpointed Crockett 27-8, despite the Cavs giving it everything they had defensively. The Hornets' constant double-teaming of every Crockett dribbler and passer made it nearly impossible to get any kind of clear shot off from the arc area, severely limiting major comeback options.

Koen Thomas led South Gibson with 18 points and was the game's lone scorer in double figures. Kevin Pledge had seven, Squirt Pickens five, and Cortland Reddick four for the Cavs, who fell to 10-9 on the season.

In the night's opener, Crockett's girls – playing without point guard Wesley Thornton (injured ankle) and despite a valiant effort – dropped a 49-28 decision to the Lady Hornets, who rode the strength of a 28-14 second-half burst to post the victory. A Keeton Holyfield three-pointer had pulled the Lady Cavs to within 15-12 with 3:32 left in the first half, but SGC rallied after a three-pointer at the buzzer by Serenity Johnson to begin to pull away.

Keeton Holyfield led Crockett (now 11-8) with 11 points, followed by Halle Holyfield with nine. Jade Reed topped the Lady Hornets with 18, backed by Acie Allen's eight.

Both Crockett teams face another district matchup Friday, traveling to Obion County.

CCHS Girls GM 19: Jan 13 at Alamo
So Gibson 11 10 14 14 - 49
Crockett 6 8 4 10 - 28

Crockett – Keeton Holyfield 11, Halle Holyfield 9, Audrey Whitby 4, Ellie Henderson 2, Alice Luten 2, Torey Savage 0, Ruth Gourley 0. 2-Pt FG: 7. 3-Pt FG: 2 (H Holyfield, K Holyfield). FT: 8-10. Record: 11-8.

SGC – Jade Reed 18, Acie Allen 8, Serenity Johnson 6, Karson Dunn 5, Trinity Johnson 4, Addy Doyle 3, Ava Owens 3, Brylee Doyle 2, Zariya Shaw 0, Kynleigh Reece 0, LJ Luckey 0, Kinley Doyle 0. 2-Pt FG: 12. 3-Pt FG: 7 (S Johnson 2, Allen 2, Dunn, Owens, A Doyle). FT: 4-5. Record: 16-4.

CCHS Boys GM 19: Jan 13 at Alamo
So Gibson 4 8 16 11 - 41
Crockett 8 6 5 3 - 22

Crockett – Kevin Pledge 7, Squirt Pickens 5. Cortland Reddick 4, Corey Savage 2, Andre Garduno 2, Max Woods 2, Jayden Frye 0, Carter Wren 0, Ben Burgess 0, Karson Kail 0, Brilan Dunagin 0. 2-Pt FG: 7. 3-Pt FG: 1 (Pickens). FT: 5-15. Record: 10-9.

SGC – Koen Thomas 18, Richard Addo 6, Cooper Yarbro 5, Jaxon Young 5, Ty Eddie 4, Levi Edwards 2, Cade Beaver 1, Josh Vonner 0, Beckett Giles 0, Jeremiah Vonner 0. 2-Pt FG: 11. 3-Pt FG: 1 (Yarbro). FT: 16-26. Record: 11-7.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Crockett County Middle School's Lady Cavaliers put up a gallant battle but fell just short of South Gibson 26-23 in the second round of the NWMSAA conference tournament Monday night at Alamo.

Coach Jamar Turner's club trailed 19-14 at halftime to the higher-seeded Lady Hornets, but outscored the visitors 7-1 in the third quarter to carry a 21-20 edge into the fourth. But South Gibson cranked up its defense and held CCMS to a single basket the rest of the way while scoring six more points to gain the win.

Khylee Cobb with 14 points and Addie Whitby with nine were the only two players to get into the scoring column for Crockett, while the Lady Hornets featured seven scorers, with Millee Prince leading the way with seven. The CCMS girls are now 11-11 on the season.

Middle School Conference Tournament
South Gibson 26, CCMS Girls 23 (Jan 12)
Crockett – Khylee Cobb 14, Addie Whitby 9. 2-Pt FG: 6. 3-Pt FG: 2 (Cobb 2). FT: 5-8. Record: 11-11.

SGC – Millee Prince 7, Stella Sanford 6, Sawyer Kate Morris 5, Caroline Twyman 3, Kate Driggers 2, Keegan Embrey 2, Dani Grace Daniel 1. 2-Pt FG: 3. 3-Pt FG: 4 (Sanford 2, Twyman, Morris). FT: 8-12.



Above: Walking down a sideline during a Crockett-South Gibson game can be a dangerous undertaking, as these young ladies found out when the Hornets' Jaxon Young collided with the Cavs' Cortland Reddick in their pursuit of a loose ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Kevin Pledge then found himself on the floor later after another collision with the Hornets' Jaxon Young (5), who seemed to be in a lot of them. (photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Cav guard Karson Kail looks for an opportunity to get inside to a teammate from in front of the Crockett bench. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Crockett's Andre Garduno (24) scores a bucket here and was a big factor in the Cavs' first-half success, blocking five shots himself. After he got in foul trouble in the third quarter, the Hornets began to pull away. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Squirt Pickens hit a three-pointer with 1:46 left in the first period to give Crockett a 6-4 lead. The hosts wouldn't net another one the rest of the way as South Gibson's defense attacked the arc area. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett cheerleaders Allyssa Ward and Cacie Jo McNeill found something funny during the halftime cake walk Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: In the girls' game, Crockett's tough-as-nails Halle Holyfield launched herself on top of this ball in an effort to keep it away from South Gibson's Trinity Johnson. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Jayden Frye tries to get a fast break going for the Cavs after swiping the ball from South Gibson's Koen Thomas (2), who seems to think he may have been fouled on the play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Cav coach Spencer Bursey is either signaling in a play or asking somebody to please be quiet during the chaotic action of Tuesday night's district battle. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: South Gibson's double-team was seemingly everywhere Tuesday night. Here, Richard Addo (left) and Cade Beaver (15) are all over Crockett's Cortland Reddick in an attempt to force a turnover. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Keeton Holyfield had a hand or two in her face all night long but led Crockett in scoring with 11 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Crockett's Torey Savage is double-teamed here by South Gibson's Jade Reed (23) and Ava Owens. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Lady Cav Ellie Henderson (30) tries to shake the Lady Hornets' Ava Owens off her leg after yanking the ball away to avoid a jump ball call. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Ruth Gourley tries to race away from a Lady Hornet defender in Tuesday night's contest with South Gibson. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Audrey Whitby is closely guarded by South Gibson's Acie Allen as she looks for an open teammate Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Ellie Henderson awaits a back-cut from teammate Audrey Whitby (10) during Tuesday night's game with South Gibson. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Right: Halle Holyfield operates against South Gibson's Jade Reed (23), hollering for a teammate's attention. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Halle Holyfield drives for the basket on her way to a nine-point performance in which she -- as usual -- left everything out on the floor. (Photo by Ron Barry)

