01/22/26 By Ron Barry

LONG-RANGE TOUCH RETURNS: LADY CAVALIERS TOPPLE DYER COUNTY 63-43



Above: Ruth Gourley continues to improve in a reserve point guard role, scoring 11 points in Thursday night's win over the Lady Choctaws. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Some nights they're the Crockett County Lady Feasts. Some nights they're the Crockett County Lady Famines.

The Feasts got on the bus to Newbern Thursday night.
Coach Kayla Irvin's rollercoaster club – which didn't make a single three-point shot in a win over Haywood in its previous game – drilled NINE of them Thursday night at Dyer County, sparking a 63-43 thumping of the Lady Choctaws.

Crockett's boys fell to Dyer County 59-51 in the nightcap as the Choctaws' towering post player Triston Sebourn tossed in 17 points, including four dunks. His height erased the Cavaliers' inside game for most of the first half, although Crockett made adjustments and made an impressive fight of it in the final two quarters.

The girls' contest began with a much-needed boost for the Lady Cavs. After not making a three against Haywood despite a relatively easy victory, it took less than a minute to record one in Newbern when Keeton Holyfield – who ended up with five of them on the night – drained one just 44 seconds in. Two minutes later, Ellie Henderson nailed one, and then for good measure, did it again for a 13-2 lead at the 3:22 mark. Along with four free throws by Ruth Gourley after she'd been fouled on drives to the basket, Irvin's squad led 19-12 at the end of the opening frame. Holyfield added another triple in the second period as the Lady Cavs increased the margin to 30-18 by the halftime intermission, but despite three inside buckets by Kira Bray, the host Lady Choctaws trimmed the edge to 42-37 entering the final stanza.

The last three Dyer County points came on a long buzzer-beating heave by Molly Roberts, and suddenly it was a ballgame again.

Crockett eased back out to a 10-point advantage when Torey Savage netted a shot and Henderson nailed another trey, and after Henderson added a basket after an impressive spin move in the lane, it was never close again. When Audrey Whitby joined the three-point party with 4:53 to play, the Lady Cavs led 52-40 and pulled away from there.

Holyfield topped the offense with 15 points, two more than Henderson. Gourley had 11 and Bray 10 as Crockett placed four scorers in double figures for the first time all season. Julie Cogdill topped Dyer County with 14. Irvin's club improved to 14-8 on the year.

Sebourn's height was the clear difference early on in the boys' game. Crockett's top scorer Kevin Pledge – though undersized against most post players he's faced – hadn't encountered a consistent shot-blocking threat like Sebourn, and while the Cav senior was smart enough not to challenge the Choctaw post often, it definitely put a dent in Coach Spencer Bursey's offense.

Dyer County raced to a 16-5 first-period lead and had stretched the margin to 12 until Crockett brought it back to 30-21 by halftime, when the host school conducted its basketball homecoming ceremonies.
The Cavs netted the first six points of the third quarter to get within 30-27 on a Ben Burgess putback, but it took less than three minutes for the Choctaws to restore a 10-point advantage. Sebourn had two big dunks during that rally. Bursey's crew didn't give up, however, and a three-pointer by Cortland Reddick made it a 50-46 game with just 5:12 to play. Two minutes later, Andre Garduno rolled in a driving layup to make it 52-48, but another Dyer County spurt put the game away in the final three minutes.

Reddick paced the Cavs with 13 points, with Pledge getting 10, Max Woods nine, Jayden Frye seven, and Garduno six. Supporting Sebourn's 17 for the Choctaws were Clay Dodds with 11 and Devin Hayward with right. Crockett is now 11-11 on the season.

Weather permitting – if "Ice-ageddon" doesn't hit too hard this weekend - both Crockett teams are scheduled to play at Liberty Tech in Jackson Tuesday night in a 6:00 twin bill.

CCHS Girls GM 22: Jan 22 at Newbern
Crockett 19 11 12 21 - 63
Dyer Co 12 6 19 6 - 43

Crockett – Keeton Holyfield 15, Ellie Henderson 13, Ruth Gourley 11, Kira Bray 10, Torey Savage 8, Audrey Whitby 3, Tink Willis 2, Halle Holyfield 1, Sydney Smith 0, Callie Freeman 0, Baylee Griggs 0, Braniya Green 0. 2-Pt FG: 13. 3-Pt FG: 9 (K Holyfield 5, Henderson 3, Whitby). FT: 10-12. Record: 14-8.

Dyer Co – Julie Cogdill 14, Molly Roberts 12, Ava Pearson 9, Alexis Perkins 4, Alaina Leedy 2, Kennedy Hill 2, Karsyn Key 0, Adelyn Talbot 0. 2-Pt FG: 9. 3-Pt FG: 5 (Roberts 4, Pearson). FT: 10-12. Record: 13-7.

CCHS Boys GM 22: Jan 22 at Newbern
Crockett 5 16 13 17 - 51
Dyer Co 16 14 16 13 - 59

Crockett – Cortland Reddick 13, Kevin Pledge 10, Max Woods 9, Jayden Frye 7, Andre Garduno 6, Ben Burgess 3, Carter Wren 3, Squirt Pickens 0, Brilan Dunagin 0, Corey Savage 0, DK Woods 0. 2-Pt FG: 13. 3-PtFG: 7 (Reddick 3, Frye 2, M Woods, Wren). FT: 4-11. Record: 11-11.

Dyer Co – Triston Sebourn 17, Clay Dodds 11, Devin Hayward 8, Jayden Tyler 7, Ryker Hayes 6, Pereon Isom 4, Bo Dodds 3, Grant West 2, Talon Messer 1, Jacob Stanley 0. 2-Pt FG: 19. 3-Pt FG: 3 (Tyler, Hayward, B Dodds). FT: 12-20. Record: 13-8.



Above: Torey Savage draws a double team just in time to spot Ruth Gourley (not pictured) streaking to the basket. Savage provided the perfect assist pass. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Aleigha Dunn had plenty to cheer about during the Lady Cavaliers' 63-43 triumph at Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Keeton Holyfield flashes that long wingspan that causes so much trouble for foes when she's at the top of a 1-2-2 press. Her wingspan is almost as long as the five threes she made against Dyer County Thursday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Ellie Henderson bats this ball away from Dyer County's Alexis Perkins (11) as Crockett raced out to a big first-quarter lead. (Photo by Ron Barry)





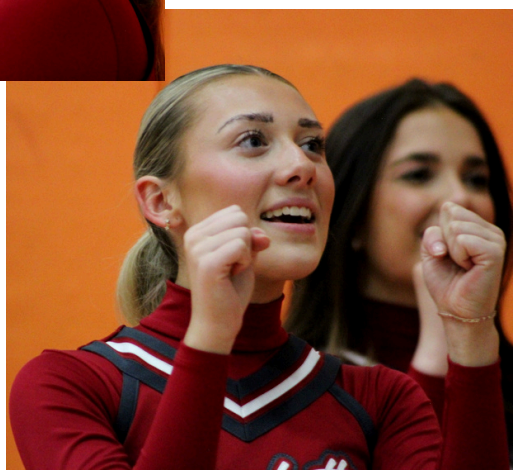


Above: Kira Bray had another solid outing off the Lady Cav bench, scoring this basket just before the halftime buzzer for two of her 10 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Eva Burleson keeps the cheers going strong for the Lady Cavaliers at Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Makayla Murphy helps keep the Crockett crowd engaged as the Lady Cavaliers pull away in the final quarter at Newbern Thursday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Coach Kayla Irvin's prayer that her team would regain their three-point shooting touch was answered Thursday night in Newbern. Assistants Brent Fronabarger and Tyler Gadlen look on. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Below: Keeton Holyfield, leading a fast break off this rebound, and three teammates all reached double figures in scoring Thursday night for the first time in a single game this season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above Left: Audrey Whitby drives for the hoop during second-half action Thursday night. Whitby's three with 4:53 left sealed the deal for Crockett, boosting the lead to 12 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below Left: Baylee Griggs (center) and her teammates react to a Lady Cavalier who drew a charge against a Lady Choctaw offensive player. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: In the boys' game, it's easy to see the problem Crockett was facing: its tallest player -- Andre Garduno -- is dwarfed by Dyer County's Triston Sebourn, who largely tamed the Cavs' lane attacks. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kevin Pledge was forced to limit his inside challenges Thursday night. Here he's considering one, but he's aware Triston Sebourn (30) is lurking in the background. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Squirt Pickens battles for possession of the ball with Dyer County's Clay Dodds. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Amy Mena will be ready to cheer again next week on Tuesday night at Liberty Tech if "Ice-ageddon" has subsided by then. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Jayden Frye hit a couple of three-pointers, but the host Choctaws still managed to pull away in the fourth quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Lexie Beaird does her best to keep the Cavalier crowd engaged as the contest heads into the final period. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Kennedy Henning keeps the troops fired up as they cut the Choctaw lead to three in the third quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Max Woods tries an inside move before dishing off to a teammate who was further away from Triston Sebourn. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Andre Garduno gave it his all guarding Triston Sebourn in the Dyer County lane area. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: The main problem for Crockett was Triston Sebourn (30), here crashing in for his fourth dunk of the game in the fading minutes. He scored 17 to spark the Choctaws. (Photo by Ron Barry)