

ICY LAYOFF HINDERS CROCKETT HOOPSTERS IN DOUBLEHEADER DROP TO SOUTH GIBSON



Above: Wesley Thornton (right center) and Ellie Henderson (left center) try to corral a loose ball while being sandwiched by South Gibson's Acie Allen (24) and Serenity Johnson (14). (Photo by Ron Barry)

When your school's basketball teams have been frozen out of their gymnasium for two weeks, you need to cut them a little bit of slack if they're somewhat "rusty" in the first game back.

Such was the case Saturday night in Medina when Crockett County's hoopsters got back onto the court for a twin bill at South Gibson County after an ice storm-induced, 16-day layoff. Neither Crockett squad shook off the cobwebs quickly enough as the Lady Cavaliers dropped a 41-30 decision and the Cavs were defeated 70-54.

Extremely slow starts were the culprits in each contest. Crockett's girls trailed 14-2 after the first quarter and then actually outscored their hosts 28-27 the rest of the way, but never really threatened the now 20-4 Lady Hornets. Crockett's guys ended the first period down 18-5 and the opening half 40-17, but showed improvement by outscoring South Gibson 37-30 in the final two stanzas.

In the night's first game, the Lady Cavs didn't get on the scoreboard until 1:27 remained in the first quarter when a Wesley Thornton free throw made it an 11-1 deficit. Their first actual field goal didn't come until the 5:27 mark of the second period when Ellie Henderson nailed a three-pointer to make the score 20-5. It was 24-11 at the half, but Coach Kayla Irvin's club held the Lady Hornets to just four points in a defense-heavy third quarter to get within 28-21 heading into the fourth.

With the margin hovering between seven and nine points for much of the final stanza, Lady Hornet point guard Karson Dunn – who has been a steady thorn in the side for Crockett throughout her career – stepped up and scored all five of her points in the fading minutes to put the game away for South Gibson. Before then, most of the damage had been done by Jade Reed, the game's only double-figure scorer with 18.

The Lady Hornets' ballhawking defense – constantly in the Lady Cavs' faces and trying to force tie-ups and steals – kept Crockett's leading scorers to nine points apiece. That would be Keeton Holyfield, who got all hers from long range, and Thornton – back from an ankle injury after missing several games – who netted seven of hers from the foul line.

The outcome of the boys game was never in doubt after South Gibson's early blitz, although Coach Spencer Bursey's Cavs showed some fight with a much more encouraging second half. The hole was too deep to dig out of, however, and Crockett had few answers for combatting the Hornets' Koen Thomas, who tallied 21 points.

Karson Kail came off the bench to score 14 to spark the Cavalier offense, including three triples. Kevin Pledge added 12 with his inside game, and Corey Savage and Cortland Reddick contributed eight each.

All the remaining Crockett games are revisions from the original schedule. The next action is a Tuesday night doubleheader in Alamo against district foe Obion County Central. Both CCHS teams will then travel to Haywood Thursday night before returning home Saturday night (Valentine's Day) for homecoming matchups with Dyer County.

CCHS Girls GM 23: Feb 7 at Medina

Crockett 2 9 10 9 - 30

So Gibson 14 10 4 13 - 41

Crockett – Keeton Holyfield 9, Wesley Thornton 9, Ellie Henderson 6, Torey Savage 4, Halle Holyfield 2, Ruth Gourley 0, Kira Bray 0, Audrey Whitby 0. 2-Pt FG: 4. 3-Pt FG: 4 (K Holyfield 3, Henderson). FT: 10-14. Record: 14-9.

SGC – Jade Reed 18, Serenity Johnson 6, Karson Dunn 5, Ava Owens 4, Trinity Johnson 3, Kynleigh Reece 3, Acie Allen 2, Addy Doyle 0. 2-Pt FG: 13. 3-Pt FG: 3 (Reece, Owens, T Johnson). FT: 6-10. Record: 20-4.

CCHS Boys GM 23: Feb 7 at Medina

Crockett 5 12 16 21 - 54

So Gibson 18 22 16 14 - 70

Crockett – Karson Kail 14, Kevin Pledge 12, Cortland Reddick 8, Corey Savage 8, Andre Garduno 4, Squirt Pickens 4, Jayden Frye 2, DK Woods 2, Ben Burgess 0, Carter Wren 0. 2-Pt FG: 15. 3-Pt FG: 5 (Kail 3, Reddick 2). FT: 9-16. Record: 11-12.

SGC – Koen Thomas 21, Jaxon Young 16, Richard Addo 9, Beckett Giles 7, Cade Beaver 5, Braxton Gibbons 5, Cooper Yarbro 5, Ty Eddie 2, Parker Borley 0, Aiden Adams 0, Jeremiah Vonner 0, Brady Miller 0, Levi Edwards 0. 2-Pt FG: 14. 3-Pt FG: 9 (Young 4, Yarbro, Thomas, Addo, Beaver, Giles). FT: 15-17. Record: 15-7.



Above: Crockett's Keeton Holyfield -- like all of the Lady Cavalier players -- seemingly hand a South Gibson hand in her face no matter where she went on the court. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Ellie Henderson was the first Lady Cav to make a field goal -- a three-pointer in the second quarter -- as the Lady Hornet tenacious defense got off to a roaring start. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: There were no easy shots for the Lady Cavs. Wesley Thornton -- who hit seven free throws in the contest -- gets hammered on this attempt from the lane. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: South Gibson's Karson Dunn -- long a thorn in Crockett's side over the years -- works to get free from Lady Cav Ruth Gourley. Dunn scored five points in the fading minutes to seal SGC's victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Crockett's Torey Savage tries to work inside against South Gibson's Jade Reed. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Keeton Holyfield scored all nine of her tallies from three-point range. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Steady Kevin Pledge scored 12 points, nailing this shot despite a smack on the side of his head as teammate Jayden Frye watches from the side. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Corey Savage netted eight points for the Cavaliers against South Gibson. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Karson Kail was one Cavalier who didn't seem affected by the long layoff, scoring 14 points off the bench to lead the Crockett offense. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: South Gibson's speedy Koen Thomas -- here driving around Crockett's Cortland Reddick -- torched the Cavaliers for 21 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)

