

ONE BASKETBALL DOUBLEHEADER, TWO GYMS- CROCKETT, DYER COUNTY GET A SPLIT



Above: Crockett administrators meet with game officials after detecting a roof leak, causing Saturday night's homecoming boys game to be switched to the auxiliary gymnasium. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Imagine three couples deciding to go out together to a nice restaurant for a Valentine's Day dinner and being seated in a roomy booth for six. But after eating their appetizers, the restaurant manager comes over and says, "Excuse me, folks, but we need to move you over to that small triangular table in the corner. It only seats three, but maybe a few of you are already full and will choose to go home instead."

That was roughly the scenario facing Crockett County High School administrators Saturday night when a steady, pelting rain outside combined with a clogged drainage pipe on the roof of the Bill Emerson Memorial Gymnasium to cause a leak that began to drip onto the basketball court just before the start of the boys game with Dyer County. The bleachers were near capacity for the Valentine's Day event – which was also Crockett's homecoming.

The crowd had already witnessed the festivities which crowned senior cheerleader Carrington Smith as queen, as well as a 69-34 Lady Cavalier victory in the scheduled twin bill's opener. But once the leak began during warm-ups for the boys contest, it was obvious that it wasn't going away any time soon.

Fortunately, CCHS added a full-sized basketball floor in an auxiliary gymnasium three years ago, so there was an option to move the boys game over there. Unfortunately, that gym's bleachers will only hold roughly a third of the crowd that can fit into Emerson. With the district basketball schedule already in shambles following the recent ice storm, moving to another date wasn't feasible.

So with an apologetic announcement, CCHS Principal Jerrod Shelton informed the crowd that the game would move over to the auxiliary gym, but there wasn't going to be adequate room for all the fans. It could have been chaos – but it wasn't. Many of the fans decided to go on home, and it appeared that everyone who chose to stay found room inside the smaller facility. Civility had won the night.

But how would the teams adjust?

When Crockett's Cortland Reddick buried a three-pointer on the first Cavalier shot, the teams could see that the baskets are the same height over here as they are over there.

Unfortunately for Crockett, so is Dyer County's Triston Sebourn.

The towering Choctaw post man – with the wing span of a pterodactyl – gave the Cavaliers fits in their first meeting earlier this season in Newbern, when he blocked several shots and altered many more. His presence basically erased any inside game Crockett tried to create.

In this rematch, Sebourn was at it again. Virtually every Cavalier shot taken from the lane was rejected. The ones that weren't were rushed or altered in some other way – which is to say: not many of them went in the basket.

If Coach Spencer Bursey's crew tried to whip the ball back outside for three-point attempts, Dyer County's lightning-quick guards and wings managed to deflect many of them as well, or hurried the shooters so much that they short-armed the ball. It wasn't a lack of effort or determination on the Cavaliers' part; it was simply better execution from the Choctaws, enough so to carve out a 50-41 victory.

Yet even with Dyer County's inside dominance, Crockett was only down 44-38 midway through the final period. The Cavs had several shots to cut the margin even further, but couldn't get the ball to drop down the stretch. And when Sebourn converted a three-point play the old-fashioned way with 1:31 to go, the Choctaw lead was 49-38 and the victor was no longer in doubt.

Reddick topped Cav scorers with 16 points. Jayden Frye and Jameson Bushart contributed seven apiece, and Andre Garduno added six. Clay Dodds paced Dyer County with 11, while Sebourn – whose teammates don't seem to go out of the way to get him involved in the offense as much as one would expect – netted nine. The loss evened the Cavs' season record at 13-13, while the Choctaws improved to 15-10.

The girls game was a strange combination of runs, competitiveness, and finally a rout. The Lady Choctaws scored the contest's first six points, then saw Crockett rack up the next 12 as Audrey Whitby drilled a three-ball and Ellie Henderson nailed a pair of them. Henderson had eight first-quarter points as Coach Kayla Irvin's squad jumped out to a 19-9 advantage, but got in foul trouble and played sparingly the rest of the way.

In the meantime, Dyer County outscored the Lady Cavs 14-13 in the second period to keep things interesting, but Crockett won the third stanza 12-7 and then completely blitzed the visitors 25-4 in the final quarter.

Wesley Thornton was all over the court for the winners, achieving the rare feat of leading the team in points (14), rebounds (7), assists (5), and steals (3) in the same game. Even so, the offensive attack had considerable balance, with Whitby netting 13 points, Henderson and Halle Holyfield eight each, Torey Savage six, Keeton Holyfield and Sydney Smith five apiece, and Kira Bray and Alice Lutten four each. The Lady Cavs are now 17-9; Dyer County, which was paced by Alaina Leedy's nine points, is now 13-11.

Crockett will close the regular season at home Monday evening with Senior Night festivities against Dyersburg. The district tournament is set to begin Wednesday night, with final brackets dependent on Monday's various results.

CCHS Girls GM 26: Feb 14 at Alamo

Dyer Co 9 14 7 4 - 34
Crockett 19 13 12 25 - 69

Crockett - Wesley Thornton 14, Audrey Whitby 13, Ellie Henderson 8, Halle Holyfield 8, Torey Savage 6, Keeton Holyfield 5, Sydney Smith 5, Kira Bray 4, Alice Lutten 4, Ruth Gourley 2, Tink Willis 0, Callie Freeman 0, Baylee Griggs 0. 2-Pt FG: 18. 3-Pt FG: 7 (Whitby 3, Henderson 2, K Holyfield, Smith). FT: 12-17. Record: 17-9.

Dyer Co - Alaina Leedy 9, Ava Pearson 7, Julie Cogdill 6, Anna Tatum 5, Alexis Perkins 4, Molly Roberts 3, Karsyn Key 0, Z'nay Webb 0, Baily McCurston 0, Adelyn Talbot 0, Kennedy Hill 0. 2-Pt FG: 6. 3-Pt FG: 3 (Roberts, Leedy, Tatum). FT: 7-12. Record: 13-11.

CCHS Boys GM 26: Feb 14 at Alamo (Aux. Gym)

Dyer Co 10 18 15 7 - 50
Crockett 13 10 11 7 - 41

Crockett - Cortland Reddick 16, Jameson Bushart 7, Jayden Frye 7, Andre Garduno 6, Karson Kail 3 Kevin Pledge 2, Carter Wren 0, Squirt Pickens 0, Corey Savage 0, Brelin Dunagin 0. 2-Pt FG: 9. 3-Pt FG: 6 (Reddick 3, Kail, Bushart, Frye). FT: 5-8. Record: 13-13.

Dyer Co - Clay Dodds 11, Triston Sebourne 9, Perea Isom 7, Ryker Hayes 6, Devin Hayward 4, Bo Dodds 4, Jacob Stanley 4, Talan Messer 3, Grant West 2, Jayden Tyler 0. 2-Pt FG: 14. 3-Pt FG: 4 (C Dodds 2, Messer, B Dodds). FT: 10-20. Record: 15-10.



Left: Cav guard Cortland Reddick, defended here by Dyer County's Clay Dodds, paced Crockett's scoring with 16 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Senior cheerleader Carrington Smith was crowned as Crockett's scoring basketball homecoming queen Saturday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Lady Cav point guard Wesley Thornton -- still a sophomore -- demonstrated her versatility Saturday night by leading her team in points, rebounds, assists, and steals in the win over Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Crockett's Jameson Bushart (44) may be fearless, but he was an early witness that Cavalier shots from the lane area would likely be blocked by Dyer County's Triston Sebourne (30). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Audrey Whitby knocked down three triples and scored 13 points in the Lady Cavalier victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: When the Choctaws' Triston Sebourm was out of the game taking a breather, Crockett's Andre Garduno (24) was able to slip inside and score to keep the Cavs close. (Photo by Ron Barry)

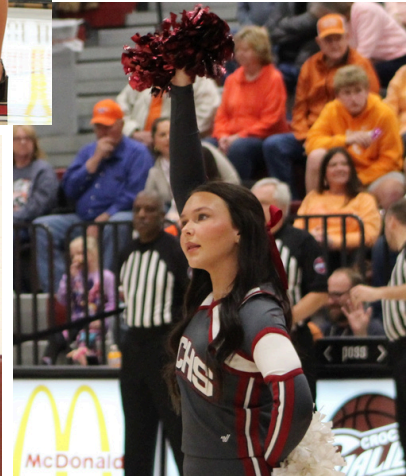


Below: Crockett's Tink Willis is being chased by Dyer County's Alaina Leedy on this play in the third quarter of the Lady Cav win. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: The 2026 CCHS Basketball Homecoming Court (from left): freshman Aime Aguilar, junior Sophia McGowan, senior Addie Dunn, senior Carrington Smith (Queen), senior Emily Morales, and sophomore Lakyn Forsythe. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett cheerleader Mia Simmons keeps the volume high as the Cavs are introduced. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Dyer County didn't have all the blocks Saturday night. Here, Cav guard Karson Kail (22) swats away a shot by Dyer County's Pereon Isom (3), with Andre Garduno ready to do the same thing right behind him. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Sydney Smith fires a three-pointer in front of the Crockett bench ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... which promptly bursts into celebration as Smith's shot zips through the net to extend Crockett's lead. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Moving the boys game into the auxiliary gym forced adjustments for P. A. announcer Craig Cochran, who took to broadcasting on Facebook Live through his phone instead; scorekeeper Michele Holyfield; and scoreboard operator Graham Mayfield. They had to quickly improvise a courtside table in the smaller venue. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Jameson Bushart works hard to deny the ball from Dyer County's towering Triston Sebourm in a visual display of the major obstacle Crockett faced Saturday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Cortland Reddick and Jayden Frye attempt to wrestle the ball away from Dyer County's Pereon Isom. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's Ellie Henderson sneaks up behind Dyer County's Ava Pearson (5) in an attempt to knock the ball away during a Lady Choctaw fast break. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Wesley Thornton looks to kick an assist past Lady Choctaw defender Adelyn Talbot (22) in Saturday's homecoming triumph. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Ruth Gourley drives toward the basket, where she drew a foul and successfully converted both free throws. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jayden Frye (23) nails this shot from the key area as the Cavaliers kept the game close until the fading minutes of the contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Keeton Holyfield tries to protect the ball from two Dyer County opponents as Lady Cav teammates Ellie Henderson (30) and Halle Holyfield (20) get ready to break upcourt. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's Kevin Pledge works the ball past Choctaw defender Clay Dodds as he tries to find some operating room. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Lady Cavalier Coach Kayla Irvin hollers instructions to her charges during the win over Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

