

REDDICK BUZZER-BEATER PROPELS CAVS PAST DYER COUNTY IN DISTRICT QUARTERFINAL



Above: "THE SHOT": Cortland Reddick, just seconds before the final buzzer, zipped this three-pointer in from the left wing to give Crockett its 53-50 stunner over Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

When was the last time you saw a basketball team give up 17 straight points in a game and still win?

When was the last time you saw one of the best offensive teams in West Tennessee score just two points in the entire fourth quarter?

When was the last time you saw a team score nothing but three-pointers in the entire fourth quarter?

When was the last time you saw another school's fan base join with yours in the fading minutes to raise the roof with their cheers?

When was the last time you saw a guy who rarely plays at all, hit two three-pointers and create a key steal in crunch time to fuel his team's comeback?

When was the last time you saw an undersized post player not known for his offense go right at a 6-7 guy and notch 15 surprise points for his team?

And when was the last time you saw a buzzer-beater swish through the net when it looked for a few seconds like your team wasn't going to get a shot off in time?

Years from now, perhaps you'll remember the answer to all of those questions: "Thursday night, February 19, 2026, when Crockett County miraculously defeated Dyer County 53-50 in the District 13-AAA Tournament in Medina, Tennessee."

In a game with more twists and turns than Chubby Checker (look him up, young folks!) at a Formula One Grand Prix racetrack, Coach Spencer Bursey's Cavaliers – once presumed out for the count after yielding 17 consecutive points from the 3:17 mark of the second quarter to the 6:10 mark of the third – resurrected themselves by cranking up the defense. Heading into the fourth period trailing 48-41, Crockett stunned the favored Choctaws by limiting their vaunted offense to a single basket over the final eight minutes.

But we're getting ahead of the story...

In two regular season meetings, Dyer County had defeated the Cavs both times. In each contest, Crockett had no answers for Choctaw post man Triston Sebourn, a 6-7 junior who blocks virtually every shot within his zip code. And in this one, in which Sebourn freed himself up for two dunks in the opening five minutes, it looked like Bursey's bunch was in for more of the same.

But when Crockett post Kevin Pledge stepped out to the top of the key to bury a three-pointer to give the Cavs a brief 8-7 lead with 3:10 remaining in the first, it appeared like a strategy change was in order. You can't block what you can't reach.

Sebourn quickly put Dyer County back ahead 9-8, but then the most unexpected sequence of events took place. Andre Garduno, who is taller than Pledge but much less offensive-minded, began to take the ball right at Sebourn, directly challenging the lanky center. Garduno netted three straight baskets with swift maneuvers, which were especially huge for Crockett because Pledge was called for his second foul before the first period ended.

The lead see-sawed between the teams for the early portion of the second quarter until a bucket and a couple of free throws by Jameson Bushart pushed Crockett up 25-20 with 3:17 left before intermission.

Then the nightmare began.

Not only did the Cavaliers not score again in the half, but they allowed the surging Choctaws to tally 12 straight points – eight of them in the final minute. Worse yet, Dyer County scored the first five points of the third quarter, producing a 12-point margin. It looked like curtains for the Crockett season in this win-or-go-home contest.

Two free throws by Pledge halted Dyer County's streak of points at 17, and then Bursey inserted seldom-used Brelin Dunigan, which he has occasionally done when he wants the Cavs to step up their defensive press. So what's the first thing Dunigan promptly does? Knocks down a three-pointer. Crockett trails 38-32 with less than six minutes remaining in the third stanza.

On the Choctaws' subsequent trip upcourt, Dunigan and Squirt Pickens squeezed Dyer County with a jump press and Pickens came away with the ball, getting it up ahead to a sprinting Corey Savage for a layup. Now it's 38-34.

But Dyer County rallied again, and when Clay Dodds banked in a twisting shot from the left side, the Choctaws were back on top 46-37 with 1:55 to go in the third. Crockett looked cooked again.

Burse's bunch didn't quit, however, and when the shortest guy on the floor – Dunigan – drilled another triple, suddenly Crockett was back within four (48-44) with 6:11 to play. About 100 seconds later, Cortland Reddick – remember that name – nailed a three for the Cavs, and it was 48-47. On the clock, 4:33 remained.

It was around this time that the Haywood fan section – awaiting its upcoming matchup with Obion County – began cheering for Crockett. (It's not known whether they became enamored with the Cavs' effort, or they hold some kind of a grudge with Dyer County.) At any rate, the Haywood cheer squad – which can raise a ruckus with the best of them – swung their quarter of the gymnasium noise over to the Cavalier side, and the atmosphere became even more electric.

After a Dodds miss from the left corner, Garduno rebounded and got the ball quickly upcourt. Pledge, who stayed out of Sebour's shadow for the most part during the duel, swung out to the right corner and nailed another three-pointer to give Crockett a 50-48 edge with 3:36 remaining. South Gibson's gym was now shaking.

The teams exchanged missed shots before Dyer County's Hayes popped in a putback basket to tie the contest at 50-48 all with 1:25 to play. Following a couple of "hold-your-breath" moments with some up-for-grabs passes, Crockett called time out with 44.9 seconds on the clock.

Reddick inbounded to Jayden Frye, who had done a marvelous job running the point for the Cavs all night. He dribbled about 30 seconds off the clock before drifting over to the right wing and passing to Reddick. Closely guarded, he kicked the ball to Garduno, who had come out to the top of the key. Garduno turned his back to the basket and calmly shuffled the ball back to Reddick, who was cutting around to the left.

As you may have guessed, time was running out by now. But Garduno – after releasing the ball – briefly blocked Sebour's path just long enough to prevent a block opportunity. As Reddick received Garduno's shuffle pass, he glanced up at the clock as the fans were screaming all around him.

"During the timeout, Coach (Burse) told us to hold the ball and run down the clock," Reddick said, "and then he reminded us that all we need is a layup. But I think we held it a little too long, and by the time I got it and looked up at the clock, it said about five seconds. So I didn't have time to do anything but shoot it." Reddick's arching trey hit nothing but net just milliseconds before the buzzer sounded, barely audible above the din of the crowd. The Cavaliers were moving on. Survive and advance.

Did Reddick know the shot was going in?

"Yes sir," he smiled, "right away!"

Ironically, all of Crockett's fourth-quarter points came on four threes. Garduno led the Cavaliers with 15 points, all from the paint area in defiance of Sebour's blocking ability. And while Sebour netted 21 points for the Choctaws, he didn't score in the fourth period, nor did any of his teammates – with the exception of the late Hayes bucket. Pledge scored 10 in support of Garduno, while Reddick added nine and Savage and Dunigan six each. Devin Hayward had nine and Hayes seven for Dyer County, which ended its season at 16-11.

Crockett (15-13) not only moved into a Saturday night semifinal matchup with top-seeded Dyersburg at 6:00, but earned a berth in next week's Region 7-AAA Tournament. Saturday's other semifinal will be between Obion County and South Gibson.

Crockett's girls return to action tonight (Friday) in a semifinal encounter with Dyersburg at 7:30 in Medina.

CCHS Boys GM 28: Feb 19 at Medina

District 13-AAA Quarterfinal

Crockett 12 13 16 12 – 53

Dyer Co 11 21 16 2 – 50

Crockett – Andre Garduno 15, Kevin Pledge 10, Cortland Reddick 9, Corey Savage 6, Brelin Dunigan 6, Jameson Bushart 4, Jayden Frye 3, Karson Kail 0, Squirt Pickens 0. 2-Pt FG: 12. 3-Pt FG: 8 (Reddick 3, Pledge 2, Dunagin 2, Frye). FT: 5-7. Record: 15-13.

Dyer Co – Triston Sebour 21, Devin Hayward 9, Ryker Hayes 7, Clay Dodds 6, Jayden Tyler 5, Grant West 2, Pereon Isom 0, Bo Dodds 0, Jacob Stanley 0. 2-Pt FG: 19. 3-Pt FG: 2 (Tyler, Hayward). FT: 6-11. Record: 16-11.



Above: In the first half, the Cavs' Andre Garduno (24) went straight at Dyer County shot blocker Tristan Sebour (30), scoring 10 of his team-high 15 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Kevin Pledge stepped outside to nail the three-pointer that gave the Cavs a 50-48 lead with only 3:36 to play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Hadleigh McCoy was doing her part to keep the crowd involved -- although they didn't need much help. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Brelin Dunigan -- the smallest guy on the floor -- knocked down two huge threes for Crockett in the contest with Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Mylee Simmons (right) and Jalisa Tate (left) were jazzed by Crockett's tremendous comeback effort against the Choctaws. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Jayden Frye continued his run of effectively directing the Cavalier offense from the point guard position. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's Corey Savage zooms through traffic and goes to the rim to challenge Dyer County's Triston Sebourn. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Andre Garduno heads upcourt after grabbing a rebound to avoid giving Dyer County time to set up their press. Clay Dodds (23) and Triston Sebourn are in pursuit. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Squirt Pickens sprints upcourt after he and Brelin Dunigan squeezed this Dyer County player and stripped him of the ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: After coming out of a timeout, Cortland Reddick (2) and Brelin Dunigan briefly congratulate each other on their successful three-pointers. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Aleigha Dunn and her teammates got some surprise help late in the game when the Haywood cheerleaders decided to back the maroon team as well down the stretch. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett coach Spencer Bursey gives Andre Garduno some special instructions in the late minutes Thursday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kevin Pledge looks for room to operate against the defense of Dyer County's Clay Dodds. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: After Cortland Reddick's game-winning buzzer-beater, Brelin Dunigan chases him down with a celebratory tackle in front of the Choctaw bench as the remaining Cavaliers gather to share the moment. (Photo by Ron Barry)