

EARLY NORTH SIDE BLITZ ENDS CAVALIER BASKETBALL SEASON IN REGION TOURNAMENT



Above: Crockett's Andre Garduno tries to work his dribble inside past North Side post man Jashon Cole in Saturday night's Region 7-AAA Tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)

It was the kind of basketball game that's difficult to watch. Not because of a lack of skilled players. Not because there wasn't a lot at stake – it was a "win-or-go-home" matchup, after all, in the quarterfinals of the Region 7-AAA Tournament.

What it did lack was drama.

Host Jackson North Side erased any hope of that by jumping to a quick 15-point lead, and easing it up to 20 – and then the game just sat there until it ended with a 68-46 triumph over Crockett County. The Cavaliers never made a serious run of any magnitude, and the Indians never pulled away further.

It just sat there, as if both teams were convinced that the outcome was decided. Both were still exerting the effort, but the score differential just didn't move much anymore. Two three-pointers by Lincoln Woods put North Side up 7-0 in the game's first three minutes, and the Cavs didn't get on the scoreboard until a Jameson Bushart free throw with 4:25 left in the first quarter. The margin grew to 14-1 by the 2:15 mark on a Kash Lindsey layup before Kevin Pledge made Crockett's first field goal 30 seconds later.

A Cortland Reddick three made it 16-6 at the 1:04 mark – and that was the closest Crockett would get to the Indians the rest of the night. It was 21-6 when the first period ended, and 43-23 by the halftime break, largely on the distance shooting of North Side's Tramel Jones, whose lefty stroke didn't miss in the second period.

The Cavs tried to get a ray of hope going in the third stanza when an Andre Garduno lay-in trimmed the deficit to 45-30 at the 4:59 mark, but soon it was back to 20 and pretty much hovered there the rest of the way as North Side slowed the game down and was content run some time off the clock.

Jones ended up with 16 points, 14 of which came during his second-period clinic. Woods had 13, Isaiah Bradley 11, Jordan McCullough 10, and Jashon Cole nine for the winners (now 24-3), who move into the Region semifinals along with Dyersburg, South Gibson, and Jackson South Side. Crockett ends its first full season under Coach Spencer Bursey with a 15-16 record. The Cavs were decidedly shorthanded Saturday night, with three players – Max Woods, Corey Savage, and Karson Kail – sidelined with injuries. Reddick led the remaining cast with 13 points, followed by Pledge with nine, Garduno with six, and Bushart with five.

CCHS officially begins its spring sports season Monday night when the baseball team travels to Chester County for a 7:00 contest, the Cavs' first under new head coach Brad Smith.

CCHS Boys GM 31: Feb 28 at Jackson Region 7-AAA Quarterfinal

Crockett 6 17 11 12 - 46

North Side 21 22 14 11 - 68

Crockett – Cortland Reddick 13, Kevin Pledge 9, Andre Garduno 6, Jameson Bushart 5, Nolen Turner 4, Brelin Dunigan 4, Jayden Frye 3, Squirt Pickens 2, Jeremiah Young 0. 2-Pt FG: 12. 3-Pt FG: 5 (Reddick 3, Frye, Dunigan). FT: 7-10. Record: 15-16.

North Side – Tramel Jones 16, Lincoln Woods 13, Isaiah Bradley 11, Jordan McCullough 10, Jashon Cole 9, Kash Lindsey 6, Jarius Vinson 3, Chance Simmons 0. 2-Pt FG: 16. 3-Pt FG: 8 (Woods 3, McCullough 2, Jones 2, Cole). FT: 12-17. Record: 24-3.



Above: Cav point guard Jayden Frye is hounded by North Side defender Jordan McCullough in the regional contest in Jackson. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Aleigha Dunn makes it clear whom she's rooting for Saturday night in Jackson at the Region Tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Cortland Reddick tries to decide how to deal with the interesting defensive strategy employed by North Side's Lincoln Woods. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jameson Bushart battled inside with North Side's tall trees and managed to produce five points in relief of Kevin Pledge. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Crockett cheerleader Gabby Dobbelaire extends her support of Crockett County with a sign and a wave to the Cav crowd. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Squirt Pickens deflects this pass attempt made by the Indians' Tramel Jones. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Jayden Frye tried to slither through the traffic in the lane for a layup attempt, but the Indians' Jashon Cole (1) was there to swat it away. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kevin Pledge is defended by North Side's Isaiah Bradley as he tries to drive to the basket. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: North Side's Tramel Jones put on a shooting clinic in the second quarter, scoring 14 of his game-high 16 points. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Andre Garduno snaked in for an uncontested layup early in the third quarter to briefly cut North Side's lead to 15. (Photo by Ron Barry)

