

Tigers mauled at Marion

■ Lady Tigers lose 62-51 to Francis Marion, boys hammered 60-49

By Colin Merritt
The Choctaw Sun

MARION — Due to dreadfully slow starts - perhaps from the more than two hour bus ride - Choctaw County dropped both varsity games on Friday night at Francis Marion High School in a crucial 3A Area 5 tilt. The boys were down 14-2 to start the game in their 69-40 loss, while the girls fell behind 17-1 at the end of one before losing 62-51, despite another great performance from super freshman Kamille Horne.

Horne, who had averaged 22 points in the last four games, continued on her torrid pace with a 21-point effort that almost led the Tigers back for the win. After trailing by 15 at the half, Horne sparked a Tiger comeback attempt that cut the lead to single-digits late in the fourth. But turnovers doomed the Tigers down the stretch as Marion held on for the win. The loss cooled off the red-hot Lady Tigers - winners of two of their last four - dropping them to 4-12 overall.

In the loss, Laquita Bush scored 10 for Choctaw County, while Lashonda Chaney and Lashondra James each added six.

The Lady Tigers didn't fare much better in their next game on Saturday night against Southeast Lauderdale in Butler where they lost by 30.

The boys also suffered from bus-lag in their 69-40 loss to Francis Marion, but unlike the girls, the boys never rallied.

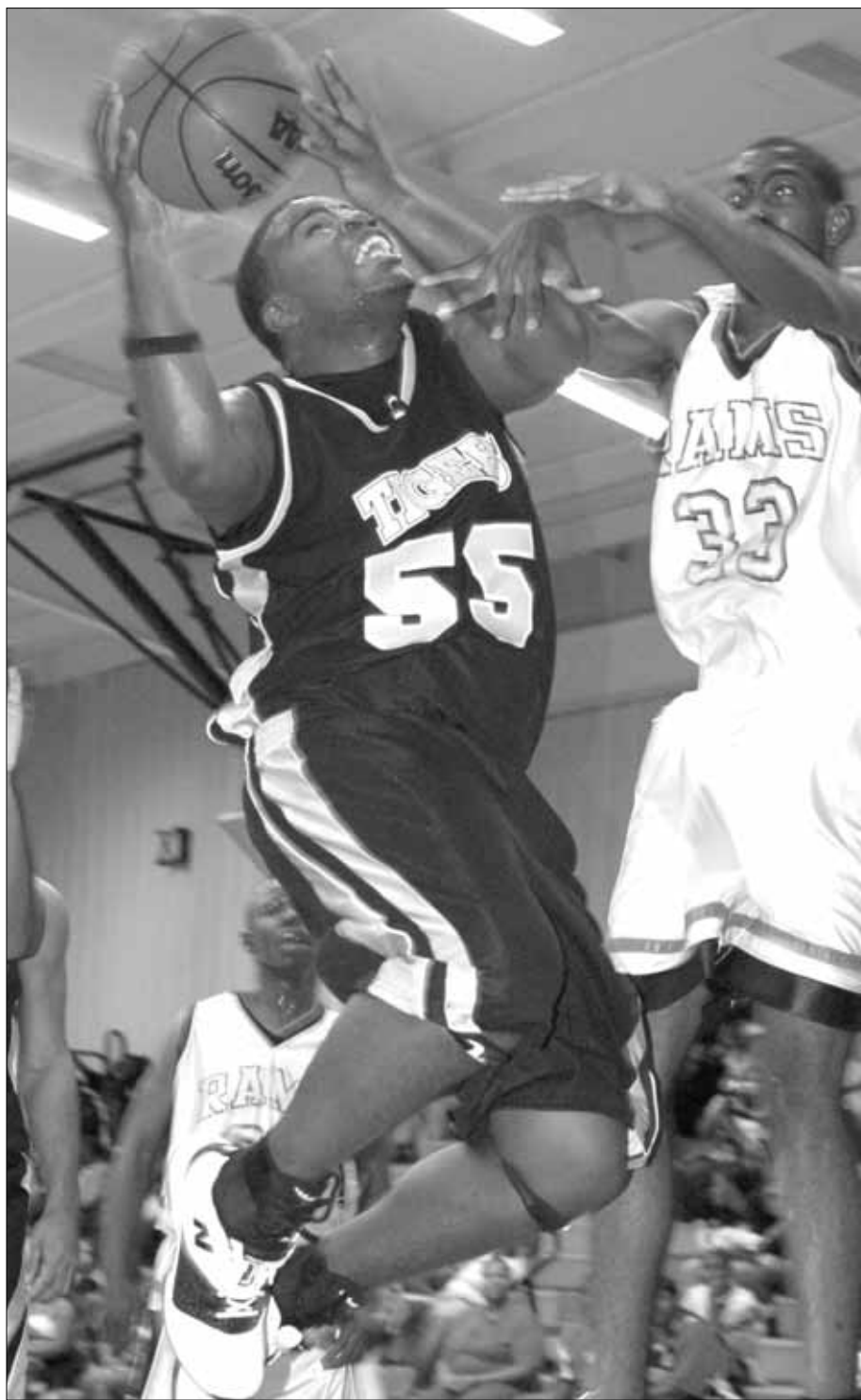
The Tigers fell behind as soon as the game started, and before they could even call a timeout to settle things down, they trailed the Rams 14-2.

Despite numerous lineup changes by Tigers' head coach Clinton Thomas, the squad couldn't find a hot-hand anywhere on the bench and lost by nearly 30 points while looking flat all night.

"It was ridiculous," said the outspoken Thomas after the loss that dropped the Tigers to 12-8 overall, but more importantly to 3-3 in area play. "Now we are going to be the three-seed in the area tournament. As long as we are two or three, we'll be all right. But, we have to play a whole heck of a lot better than we did in Marion."

The four-seed will likely play top-seed Sumter, while the two and three seeds will match-up. Right now, it looks like Choctaw County will face Greensboro in round-one, and Sumter will catch Marion.

The Tigers did rebound on Saturday night in Butler with a 50-43



Choctaw Sun photo by Colin Merritt

Choctaw County's Dondricus Pringle (#55) goes up for two of his team-high nine points in the Tigers' embarrassing 69-40 loss to Francis Marion. No Tiger totaled double-digits in the defeat. CCHS did rally to win their next game - a 50-43 win over SE Lauderdale in Butler on Saturday night - to improve their record to 13-8 on the year. The Tigers' next game is Tuesday, January 23rd against Clarke County in Butler.

win over Southeast Lauderdale. The win, sparked by ten points each from Demetrick Goodwin and Chris 'Sweetpea' Carter, improved Choctaw County to 13-8 overall.

The Tigers don't play again until January 23rd when they host Clarke County, a team they lost to by 20 points earlier in the season.

But, according to Thomas, the next time you see these Tigers, it will be a different team.

"We straightened some things out when we got back from Marion," said Thomas, referring to a team meeting and a subsequent

weekend practice in which the coach pushed his squad pretty hard. "Trust me baby, this will be a different team when Clarke County gets here, and for the rest of the season."

The B-team salvaged Choctaw County's only win with a 40-31 defeat of Francis Marion. In the win, the Tigers jumped out to a 31-7 lead, but had to hold on for the nine-point victory. Phillip Ollison led CCHS with 16 points, while Doug Ezell hit for nine points and collected six boards.



Choctaw Sun photo by Colin Merritt

PA's B.J. Boykin shoots for two of his ten points in the junior varsity's 44-32 win over Marion School. The win improved the boys to 10-1 and assures them a spot in this Saturday's state invitational tournament in Camden.

Saints' J.V. storm into state tournament with sweep of Marion, South Choctaw

By Colin Merritt
The Choctaw Sun

MARION -- Both of Patrician's junior varsity squads made short work of Marion Schools on Friday night. The boys (10-1) won 44-32 behind a 15-point game from J.P. Hyatt, while the girls tripled up the Lady Panthers, 36-12, to stay perfect on the season with an 11-0 mark.

The wins assure both Saints' squads a spot in this Saturday's state invitational tournament to be played in Camden. As of presstime on Tuesday the brackets had not been released, but both Patrician teams figure to earn a No. 1 seed for the season ending tournament.

In the win over Marion, Micheal Gibson hit for 14 to help high-point man J.P. Hyatt lead the Saints to the road win. B.J. Boykin hit eight of his ten points in the fourth period, while Chase Webb rounded out the scoring with five.

In the girls game, Tori Walter continued her dominance with a 13-point effort, followed by Shelby Williams with six, and Harley Glass and Lauren Bonner with five.

Right at presstime, the Lady Saints' J.V. (12-0) beat South Choctaw 46-20 behind 12 points from Tori Walters and 10 from Shelby Williams. The PA boys also won, 43-23, to improve to 11-1.



Tori Walters

This Week's Hoops Schedule

Tuesday, January 16th
SCHS host Wash. Co.
PA host Southern
Millry host Coffeerville

Thursday, January 18th
Coffeerville host Sweetwater

Friday, January 19th
SCA at Cornerstone
Coffeerville host Fruitdale
PA host Marion
SCHS host R.C. Hatch

■ LADY REBS from 1B

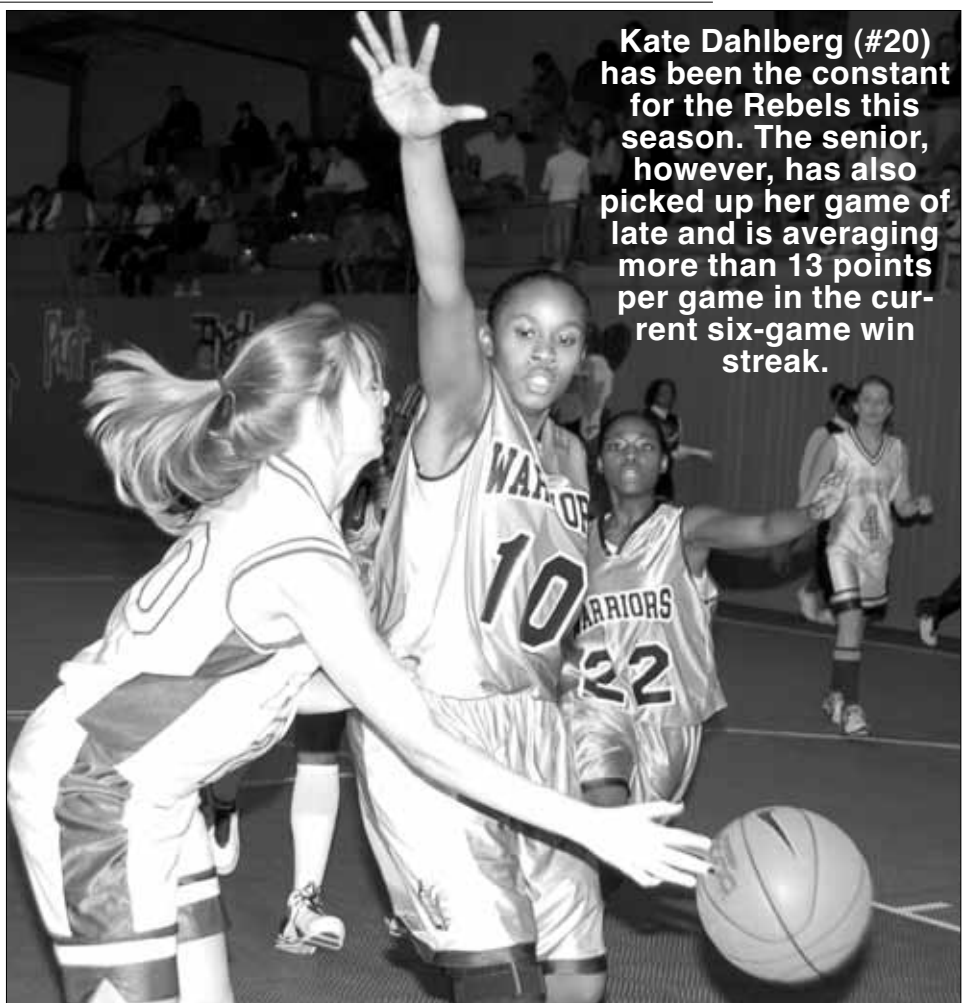
Rebels' head coach Charlie Taylor after his team stroked nine 3-pointers in their win over Coosa Valley. "Right now we are hitting our outside shots, that's big for us because it spreads the defense and allows our post players some room."

The improved outside shooting has done just that. As the shots begin to fall, defenders have to cover the Rebels' deadly outside shooters like Mosley, Koen Lindsey, Bridget Kwasiak, and Kate Dahlberg, thus leaving center Arielle Campbell with room to work under the basket.

The senior, Campbell, has taken full advantage of the extra space, hitting for 22 points in the Rebels' win over Central on Friday, just a night after she torched Central once again for 14 in Selma.

During the three-game winning weekend, Campbell, along with fellow senior Kate Dahlberg, totaled 40 points, while Mosley tallied 31, Lindsey 19, and Kwasiak 18.

The Lady Rebels (13-5, 4-0) host Patrician Monday night after presstime, before traveling to face Cornerstone on Friday (1/19).



Kate Dahlberg (#20) has been the constant for the Rebels this season. The senior, however, has also picked up her game of late and is averaging more than 13 points per game in the current six-game win streak.

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