

Gibson hits buzzer-beater to wallop WAP

■ Trent Gibson's 15-footer hit the bottom of the net as the buzzer sounded to deliver South Choctaw a thrilling victory

By Colin Merritt
The Choctaw Sun

TOXEY — Trent Gibson literally saved the best for last.

The junior guard scored all eight of his points in the Rebels' 21-point fourth period to help his team rally from a six-point deficit for the exciting win. Gibson hit two 3-pointers - and the buzzer-beating game winner as time expired - to lift the Rebels past West Alabama for their ninth win of the season.

"Trent has always had the knack for knocking down big shots," SCA head coach Terry Sikes said of the junior, reminiscing back to when Gibson hit a game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer against Patrician three years ago in junior varsity. "This was probably our biggest win of the



file photo

year. We played hard all game long." West Alabama was actually down 50-45 with less than a minute to play when Terrance Irby drained a 3-pointer while being double-teamed from deep behind the arc. On the ensuing possession, Gibson missed the front end of a one-and-one. West Alabama would grab the rebound and drive the length of the court for the tying lay-up with just nine seconds left to set the stage for Gibson.

SCA

52

WAP

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To set up the game winning shot, the Rebels called a timeout once they reached half court. Coach Sikes then called a pick play for Tyler Fulcher. Fulcher got trapped at the top of the key and had to kick it out to Gibson on the corner. Gibson then put up the 15-footer that hit nothing but net as the buzzer sounded.

Tyler Fulcher actually led the Rebels with 23 points and five rebounds in the win, while Gibson and Derek Conner each added eight points. Conner also had 11 rebounds. Matt Etheridge scored six points for South Choctaw, while West Alabama's Terrance Irby hit for 27.

The win was the Rebels' eighth in their last thirteen ball games, giving them a 9-15 overall record, a big improvement since their 1-8 start.

Right now the surging Rebels are in a three-way tie for first place in the area with Central Christian and West Alabama Prep. If South Choctaw beats Sumter and West Alabama beats Central, then the Rebels will win the area and take the top-seed into the February 1st area tournament.

The Rebels play Sumter in York on Friday (1/26) and then host Marengo (1/29) on Monday.



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell

ROUT

■ South Choctaw Lady Rebels post unbelievable 89-point blowout over West Alabama Prep Lady Titans

By Colin Merritt
The Choctaw Sun

TOXEY — Ouch! The South Choctaw Lady Rebels laid waste, literally, to the West Alabama Prep basketball team with a 96-7 rout in Toxey on Tuesday night. The Rebels played ever single player, getting points from all but two, in the runaway win that improves their record to 17-6.

"We played our starters for only three minutes together," said Rebels' head coach Charlie Taylor of the mismatch. "By the second half we were basically rotating everybody. It didn't seem to matter who we put in though, everybody just kept scoring."

The Rebels jumped out to an insurmountable 52-2 halftime lead. In the second half South Choctaw played mostly back ups and still outscored WAP 44-5.

Senior Arielle Campbell scored 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds in limited action to lead the Rebels in the slaughter. Lauren Jackson and the seldom used Evelyn Todd each scored 14 points, while Kate Dahlberg and Cortney Mozingo added 12 apiece. Bridget Kwasniak scored 11 points and had 10 steals for the Rebels.

On Monday night, the Lady Rebels beat Wayne Academy on the road thanks to a 19-point performance from senior Kate Dahlberg. The Rebels jumped out to a 21-8 first period lead and never looked back on their way to the easy 64-33 victory. Arielle Campbell scored 11 points and Lauren Jackson added nine points and eight rebounds for the Rebels. Trystan Mosley tallied eight points, while Bridget Kwasniak scored six points to go with eight assist in the win.

SCA

96

WAP

7



Choctaw Sun photo by Dee Ann Campbell

Senior Bridget Kwasniak (#25) makes one her 10 steals during limited playing time in the Rebels 96-7 whipping of WAP. The Rebels already beat the Lady Titans earlier in the year, 69-19, and will have to play them once more in the first-round of the area tournament in Toxey on February 1st.

Friday (1/26) and then host Marengo (1/29) on Monday.

South Choctaw will then host the area tournament as the top-seed, where they will rematch with four-seed West Alabama Prep in the first-round on February 1st.

Indians top Leroy

■ SCHS moves to 10-3 with road win over rival Bears

By Colin Merritt
The Choctaw Sun

LEROY — The Southern Choctaw boys basketball team rebounded from their home loss to 3rd-ranked R.C. Hatch with a 46-33 victory over Leroy on Monday night. The victory improved the boys to 10-3 overall on the season.

In the win, Skylar Gibson led the Indians with 10 points, while Jerrell White and Jamison Stewart each scored seven. The victory was big for Southern Choctaw after getting blasted at home by area-rival R.C. Hatch 88-47 last week.

"It's a big win for us," said Indian head coach Charles Chaney. "We need to keep improving because we will hopefully face Hatch again in the area tournament."

The Indians will first play Keith in the February 9th 2A Area 5 tournament which will played at R.C. Hatch in Uniontown.

The winner of that game will then play Hatch in the area final. Regardless of the outcome of the final, however, both teams in the final game will advance to the next round of the state tournament.

The Lady Indians dropped their game at Leroy 44-27 to fall to 2-11 on the season. Angelica Gibson, Britany White and Cassandra Foster led the Indians in scoring in the loss.

The Lady Indians will travel to Keith on February 8th to face R.C. Hatch in the first-round of the 2A Area 5 tournament.

But first, SCHS will play Keith on the road Friday night (1/26) and then host Millry on Tuesday, January 30th.



Skylar Gibson (#14) led the Indians with 10 points in their 46-33 win over Leroy on the road Monday night.

SCHS

46

Leroy

33