

## Horne sounds for Lady Tigers

■ Kamille Horne's last second basket leads resurgent Choctaw County past Sumter for their second win in four games

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — With just eight seconds left on the clock and the score tied 41-41, Choctaw County had the ball and a chance to win a spirited game against Sumter County. Coming out of a timeout, senior Laquita Bush passed the ball inbound to a driving Kamille Horne, who floated a baseline lay-up over a leaping defender for the game-winning bucket.

"We knew we wanted Kamille to get the ball," said head coach Aria James of the last shot in her Lady Tigers' thrilling 43-41 win over Sumter in front of a packed gym in Butler Saturday night. "We took a timeout and made sure we had a play we thought would get us a basket. Kamille had been hot all night, so we wanted to get her the ball. We drew up the play, the girl's executed it to perfection, and we got the win."

Thanks to four 3-pointers and 12 first period points, Horne finished with a game-high 22 points in the victory.

The win over Sumter was the Lady Tigers' second in their last four games, improving their overall record to 4-11.

The run of good play started last week when the squad beat Linden, 44-34, in the opening round of the Clarke



Choctaw Sun photos by Colin Merritt

The Lady Tigers celebrate after the last second win against Sumter in Butler on Saturday night. The victory was CCHS's second in their last four games. Choctaw County will now take to the court at Francis Marion this Friday and return home to face SE Lauderdale on Saturday.

County Holiday Tournament behind an 18 point effort from Horne. The Tigers then dropped a close one to the host Lady Bulldogs, 50-46, despite a 29-point game from Horne.

The freshman sensation, Horne, then scored 18 points in Choctaw County's ugly 46-28 loss in Greensboro on Friday night, before returning home with 22 points in the momentum building win over Sumter County (6-6) Saturday night.

"We have played a lot better over the last two weeks," admitted Coach James after the big win over Sumter. "Other than the letdown against Greensboro, I am very

pleased with our girls. If we keep up the effort and continue to play with the same positive attitude that we have exhibited recently, then the wins will keep coming."

During the successful four game stretch, standout Kamille Horne has averaged a sizzling 22 points per game. Senior Laquita Bush has also been a big reason for the Tigers' sudden revival, posting 11 points in the win over Sumter and seven in the victory over Linden.

CCHS will now travel to face Francis Marion on Friday, January 12th, then host Southeast Lauderdale in Butler on Saturday, January 13th.



### GAME WINNER!

Freshman Kamille Horne hit's the game winning lay up as time expires in the Tigers' thrilling 43-41 victory over Sumter County.

Horne, who has averaged 22 points in CCHS's last four games, scored 22 in the win.

## REVENGE

Tigers use 21-point third period to beat Sumter County, 57-53, in crucial area rematch

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

BUTLER — Choctaw County (12-7, 3-2) got three 3-pointers in a row from sophomore Trent Ruffin in the third period to erase a nine-point halftime deficit and outlast second-ranked Sumter County, 57-53, in Butler on Saturday night. The win moves Choctaw County into second place in 3A Area 5 behind Sumter County (11-3, 4-1).

"I challenged the guys at halftime to show what they were all about in the second half," said Tigers' head coach Clinton Thomas of his team's 21-10 third quarter advantage over Sumter. "I especially challenged Trent Ruffin to come out and start shooting the ball. He hit all 15 of his points in that second half."

Choctaw County fell behind 18-12 in the first period and then 31-22 at halftime before Ruffin and Chris Carter staged a valiant comeback in the third. Ruffin hit three straight 3-point baskets and Carter scored six of his eleven points in that decisive period. The surge sent



Choctaw Sun photos by Colin Merritt

CCHS's Byan Winston is fouled on his way to the basket in the Tigers' 57-53 win over Sumter County on Saturday night in Butler. The win moved Choctaw County (12-7) into second place in their area with a 3-2 record. Sumter (11-3) is still in first place with a 4-1 mark.



Senior David Kirksey drives past a Keith defender in the Indians' 42-36 win in Gilbertown on Saturday night. Kirksey hit a game-high 11 points for the 4-1 Indians.

Choctaw Sun photos by Dee Ann Campbell

## Indians shock Keith

■ Southern Choctaw beats Keith, 42-36, to move atop difficult 2A Area 5

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

GILBERTOWN — When the new area alignments were announced for basketball prior to the season, Southern Choctaw was not happy. The Indians were grouped into 2A Area 5 with the

likes of basketball powerhouses R.C. Hatch and Keith.

Basically, in a three-team area where only two teams make the playoffs, things did not look good for the Indians' post-season chances. However, after the 42-36

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