

## NO CONTEST

■ South Choctaw Lady Rebels dominate Crenshaw as they roll into state final to battle Warrior

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

MONTGOMERY — So far, it hasn't even been close.

The South Choctaw Lady Rebels (23-6) crushed another opponent - this time Final Four foe Crenshaw 47-28 - at the AISA Class 1A state tournament at Huntingdon College in Montgomery on Wednesday. With the blowout win, the Rebels move into the state final to face Warrior Academy after presstime on Thursday.

**Lady Rebels**

**47**

**Crenshaw**

**28**

Since the start of the playoffs, the Lady Rebels have literally destroyed every team they have played. In their four postseason contests, South Choctaw's average margin of victory has been more than 20 points.

Even the closest call for the Lady Rebels at state wasn't really that close - a 52-30 win over Sumter in the Elite Eight - and according to Rebel Head Coach Charlie Taylor, the high-scoring dominance is due to defense, not offense.

"We have been superior because of our athleticism in our full-court press," Taylor beamed as he praised his defense that has held their last two opponents - Sumter and Crenshaw - to just two first half baskets, combined. "We win games big because teams can not handle our press. We have worked hard to get it to that point."

The Rebels, and their relentless defense, will have to be on for just one more game, a state final meeting against

Warrior, a team, according to Coach Taylor, that will give his Rebels all they can handle.

"I expect this one to come down to the wire. They (Warrior) may not be as athletic as us, but they will be the best Class 1A team we have face this year," finished Taylor, adding that his squad has gone undefeated in 1A and has only trailed an in-class opponent once all season.

The top-seeded Rebels have already beaten the fifth-seeded Warrior Academy Lady Braves back in December. However, this is not the same Warrior team. Since the first meeting, Warrior has added two girls to the squad and has lost just once since then, running their record to an impressive 19-2.

The AISA Class 1A state final pitting South Choctaw against Warrior was set for Thursday (2/15) at 5 p.m. in Montgomery at Huntingdon College. Complete coverage will be in the February 20th issue of the 'Sun'.

In the win over Crenshaw, senior Kate Dahlberg scored nine of South Choctaw's first ten points to help the Rebels race out to a quick 16-3 first period lead. With the lead, the Rebel defense controlled the game, allowing Crenshaw just two baskets through three quarters.

Dahlberg led the Rebels against Crenshaw with 13 points, while Lauren Jackson scored seven, and Bridget Kwasniak and Cierra Giles each had six. Arielle Campbell added five, Cortney Mozingo four, and Randi Arrington and Koen Lindsey each scored three points to round out the scoring for the Rebels.

If the Lady Rebels beat Warrior, it will be the first time since 1995 that South Choctaw has claimed an AISA basketball state title.



Choctaw Sun photo by Marcus Gates

South Choctaw senior point guard Bridget Kwasniak drives to the basket during the Rebels' 47-28 dismantling of Crenshaw Christian in the AISA Class 1A Final Four. The win moved the Lady Rebels (23-6) into the state championship game against Warrior Academy (19-2) after presstime on Thursday (2/15) at 5 p.m.

☆☆ **REBELS WIN STATE** ☆☆

The Choctaw Sun received word from Montgomery just before presstime on Thursday night that the South Choctaw Lady Rebels had beaten Warrior 57-44 to claim the AISA Class 1A State Championship! Senior Arielle Campbell led the Rebels with 18 points and Kate Dahlberg added 10. Check out the next issue of the 'Sun' for more on the State Champion Lady Rebels!

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*The Choctaw Sun*

Basketball Players of the Year

**Chris 'Sweetpea' Carter**  
Choctaw County High School  
Senior



*Kate Dahlberg*  
South Choctaw  
Senior

In this her senior year, Kate is on the verge of fulfilling her destiny as one of the next great players in Lady Rebel history. Kate and the Rebels (23-6) are playing for the state championship for the first time since 1995, when the last great Rebel hoopster, Tori Johnson, took them all the way. A vicious competitor who's unstoppable driving to the basket, Kate leads the Rebels in almost every category, including scoring, steals and shooting percentage. More importantly, Kate is an excellent leader, who's fierce playing style has made players around her excel. Kate joins Alanna Jackson (04) as the second Rebel to win Sun POY. -CM



Sweetpea probably cemented the Player of the Year honor with his dunk-filled 17-point second half effort in Choctaw County's exciting win over Sumter in the area tournament. He was absolutely dominant in the game's fourth period, wowing a packed gym with two monster dunks and a last-second game winning tip-in that has his 17-10 Tigers still alive in the state playoffs. The most versatile player in Choctaw County, Sweetpea could play the two-guard or center spot equally brilliant and thus is a nightmare for opposing teams to match up with. At 6-foot-6 he is a threat to dunk either standing still or driving, and has turned into an excellent rebounder under the basket. This is the fourth straight year a CCHS Tigers has won the Sun POY. Sweetpea joins the ranks of past Tiger greats like Deon President (04), Clinton 'Scooter' Thomas (05), and Marquell Drummond (06). -CM