



# Sports & OUTDOORS

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## Lady Rebels win area tournament

■ South Choctaw takes first step towards state title by beating West Alabama and Sumter to claim area title

By Colin Merritt  
The Choctaw Sun

TOXEY — South Choctaw Academy not only had to come from behind to beat Sumter Academy 56-47 in the final of the AISA Class 1A West Area tournament on Saturday night in Toxey, but they did it with two starters on the bench nursing injuries.

South Choctaw fell behind 15-8 in the first period to the upset-minded Sumter squad as seniors Arielle Campbell and Kate Dahlberg watched from the bench with a twisted knee and ankle respectively.

With both players out to start the second, the trailing Rebels rallied with a 19-5 run sparked by senior Randi Arrington - who had come off the bench for the injured Dahlberg - and went on to beat Sumter for the third time this year. Although Dahlberg would re-enter the game before halftime, the comeback, according to Rebel Head Coach Charlie Taylor, started with Arrington's hustle.

"Randi Arrington was the difference in that game with her defense," admitted Taylor after the Rebels' victory. "She forced five turnovers in the second quarter alone, she played great."

Taylor was also pleased with the entire team effort in the win that improved the Rebels to 21-6 overall and gives them the top-seed heading into this Thursday's Elite Eight.

"We did a great job as a team to come from behind," Taylor praised his squad that, according to him, hasn't trailed a Class 1A team all season. "I thought the girls that came off the bench did a great job. We answered the challenge and came back to win as a team."

In the win over Sumter the Rebels were led by the injured Dahlberg with 21 points. Arrington finished with eight points and five steals, while Lauren Jackson added seven points and Bridget Kwasniak scored six for South Choctaw. As of presstime on Monday, both Dahlberg and Campbell were doing better and expected to play in the Rebels next game.

South Choctaw advanced to the final to meet Sumter with an easy 82-23 whipping of West Alabama Prep in the first-round on Thursday in Toxey. Bridget Kwasniak led the onslaught with 20 points, while Cortney Mozingo, Evelyn Todd, and Arielle Campbell each scored ten.

The Rebels (21-6) will now face Sumter Academy again this Thursday (2/8) in the Elite Eight at Faulkner University in Montgomery.

Game time is 1 p.m.

see more photos on 3B



Submitted photo

The South Choctaw Lady Rebels pose with their 1A West Area championship trophy after beating Sumter 56-47 in the tournament finals on Friday night in Toxey. The girls will next play in the AISA's Elite Eight in Montgomery on Thursday against Sumter at 1 p.m. The Lady Rebels are: (bottom row l-r) Trystan Mosley, Tournament MVP Kate Dahlberg, Bridget Kwasniak, Randi Arrington/All-Tournament team, Koen Lindsey, (back row) Tanner Johnson, Holli Cornett, Kourtney Hubbard, Cierra Giles, Evelyn Todd, Arielle Campbell, Lauren Jackson/All-Tournament team, Cortney Mozingo, and coaches Rachel Cochran and Charlie Taylor.

## Tigers slam Indians

■ Fourth period dunk-fest in boys game highlight's Choctaw County's sweep of Southern Choctaw



By Colin Merritt  
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BUTLER — The Choctaw County Tigers never trailed in their 58-34 victory over Southern Choctaw in Butler on Friday night. The Tigers maintained a double-digit lead most of the game before using a 14-3 dunk-filled fourth period to blow the Indians away on Senior Night.

Choctaw County (16-9) held a comfortable 13-point lead heading into the fourth against an Indian squad that had tried to slow the game down to keep the Tigers from easy fastbreak baskets. The play had worked fairly well until midway through the fourth when Choctaw County started turning steals into breakaways that were finished with monster dunks. In all, the Tigers dunked five times in the games closing minutes, sending the home crowd into a frenzy as they blasted their county-rival by 24 points.

In the win, the Tigers were ironically led by their seniors.



Choctaw Sun photos by Colin Merritt

Seniors (l-r) Chris 'Sweetpea' Carter, Bryan Winston and Harold Williams celebrate after beating Southern Choctaw in Butler on Friday night. Sweetpea and Winston each had nine points highlighted

by several high-flying dunks in the 58-34 victory. CCHS will next play Sumter this Friday (2/9) night in Greensboro at 6 p.m in the first-round of the 3A Area 5 tournament.



■ Patrician lets eight-point second half lead slip away in area title loss at Marion...see 2B

Choctaw Sun photo by Colin Merritt

Patrician's Nancy Dasis (#32) fires up a shot over a Marion defender while teammate Anna Lewis (#40) looks on. The Saints lost the game 33-29 but will still advance to the Elite Eight this Thursday in Montgomery to play Sparta at 4:30.

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