

# Signed

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up in the stands and see a crowd full of the community supporters is a memory she'll always cherish.

"Every program I've played for, whether basketball or whatever, it's all about Forrest and just playing for my town. They follow you to the state tournament—they're always there. I think it's having someone to play for and knowing they have my back," she said.

When it came time for the pair to begin their college search, both had several schools in the mix, but ultimately, it was the closeness of Motlow and the small-school environment that landed the Lady Rocket pair.

"They were really far away from my family and I didn't think I'd be able to go that far away from them. Motlow is definitely a great option," Wales said.

"I knew I wanted to go to a smaller school. It felt like home when I went there. I love the coaches and I knew that's where I wanted to go," Warner said.

As for their transition to the college level, Lightfoot thinks the pair will become immediate contributors at the collegiate level.

"I think they will fit in seamlessly just because of their hard work and determination. They're going to come in, give you everything they've got and they love the game. A lot of it is, 'do you love the game enough to play at the next level?' I have no doubt they do," she said.

For now, the focus turns to their senior season and making a return trip to the spring fling with the hopes of bringing home another state title.

Lightfoot has high expectations from both of her senior leaders.

"Senior year, behind the plate, we talk about Parker being communicative behind the plate because we do have a younger pitching staff. So she doesn't only manage one pitcher, she now has to manage five or six," she said.

"Carli, again, being the vocal leader, coming through, getting people going and getting those big hits and leading her team in a way that keeps her momentum going throughout the game."

Once they get to Motlow, the pair will become roommates and not only be teammates once again, but both also plan on pursuing degrees in nursing.

Being able to room with Warner and go through the college experience with her high school teammate was a big draw for Wales.

"It means a lot because we can go through stuff together for the first time and we're going to room together," she said.

# Lady Dawgs

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Forrest offense during Friday night's clash.

"I thought Macyn Kirby tried to handle the brunt of the load for us and I thought we were ready to play when the game started," Murrell said.

"We started off really sluggish with probably three or four turnovers to start the game and they got a little momentum. But even at halftime, it was a nine-point game and very reachable."

With a nine-point lead in hand at the start of the third, Cornersville was able to exploit some mismatches in the low post and built a 16-0 run to open the third period.

"I thought we had some mismatches down low and we wanted to try and take advantage of that," McMahon said.

"We've got a few girls who can go off on any night. I don't think you can guard just one person on our team."

In the third, it was Jayli Childress and Alicia Polk who combined for 17 points to lead the way for the Lady 'Dawgs.

Forrest's Meagan Mealer also gave the Lady Rockets several key minutes and hit some timely shots as well.

"She has to do that every single night—they get rebounds, they knock down key baskets, they communication on defense and get stops. She's more than capable of doing that every night she walks on the floor. For us to be successful, she has to be one of those players for us," Murrell said.

Childress and Polk



Katie Powers puts the clamps on a rebound in the second half against Forrest.



Kinslee Inlow surveys the floor as Camille Franklin provides defense in the corner.



Jayli Childress settles in for a free throw against Forrest on Friday night.



Macyn Kirby drives against the Lady Bulldog defense.

led Cornersville with a combined 29 points, while Mealer was the lone Lady Rocket to hit double figures, with 10 points.

Cornersville 11 9 18 4 — 42  
Forrest 5 6 5 7 — 23  
Cornersville: Alicia Polk 17, Jayli Childress 12, Ady Gentry 5, Anna Wood 3, Abigail Finley 3, Camille Franklin 2.  
Forrest: Megan Mealer 10, Macyn Kirby 6, Kinslee Inlow 5, Carl Warner 2.  
3-Point goals: Cornersville (5): Childress 2, Polk, Wood, Finley; Forrest (2): Mealer 2.  
Halftime score: Cornersville 20, Forrest 9.

# Bulldogs

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game plan against us. The 1-3-1 gave us trouble and we shot the ball in the corner just like they wanted us to do. Our guys didn't make shots down the stretch and their guys did," Rocket coach Shane Chapman said.

It was never an offensive masterpiece by either squad, but both did have their moments at various points in the game.

Davin Porter helped the Rockets build a 21-16 lead, scoring all 12 of his points in the first half, including three triples for the Rocket big man.

"He (Porter) is a heck of a ball player. Tonight, I feel like we did a better job defending him. He's such a hard guard because he can get off the dribble and make the long shot," Brown said.

Between working in the paint and being able to hit shots from the perimeter, Porter is often the powderkeg that can spark the Rocket offense, Chapman said.

"When we can get stuff going with Davin, the rest of the team usually follows. We had some guys that didn't shoot it like they normally do," Chapman said.

While the Rockets built a five-point lead by halftime, offense became an all-out struggle for Forrest in the second half, particularly in the third quarter.

After a three-pointer brought the Bulldogs within one possession at the 5:46 mark of the third, it was Ben Franklin who went to work in the paint and helped Cornersville rally for a 25-23 lead by the end of the third.

"He (Franklin) is one



Ben Franklin goes up strong after hauling in a rebound for Cornersville.



Ben Villazon pulls up for a mid-range jumper for the Rockets.



Blaine Woodard flies to the rim and goes up for a layup.

of those guys who is going to crash the boards and go hard, but I feel like tonight he was able to make some moves and score some easy layups," Brown said.

Franklin went on to hit double figures and score 10 points, as well as lead the Bulldogs off the glass.

Hayden Grover also hit double figures for Cornersville as he led the Bulldogs with 11 points.

For Chapman and the Rockets, the challenge is to provide more consistency in the paint.

"We've got to execute better. We've got to put the ball in the hole to-



Bray McCown (4) huddles up with Rocket coach Shane Chapman in the second half of Friday's county rivalry showdown.

night when we're inside two and three feet," he said.

Cornersville 8 8 9 9 — 34  
Forrest 10 11 2 9 — 32  
Cornersville: Hayden Grover 11, Ben

Franklin 10, Carter Neat 8, Gage Lovell 4, Blaine Woodard.  
Forrest: Davin Porter 12, Bray McCown 6, Jimmy Bond 5, Ben Villazon 5, Mason Harper 4.  
3-Point goals: Forrest (4): Porter 3, Villazon; Cornersville (2): Neat 2.  
Halftime score: Forrest 21, Cornersville 16.

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