

Kirby signs with Lipscomb University

By Chris Siers
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Macyn Kirby has become one of the most versatile players on the Forrest Lady Rocket softball roster.

With the ability to play virtually any position on the field, and coupled with a life-long drive to fulfill her dream of playing Division I college softball, Kirby saw the fruits of her labor come fulfilled as she recently signed her letter of intent to continue her softball career at Lipscomb University.

In front of a crowd of her teammates, family and friends, Kirby inked her name on the letter of intent to make it official.

"I'm very blessed and I'm very thankful for all my coaches and friends. I just love each and every one of them," she said.

From the earliest days of playing since she was eight-years-old, to the cup of her senior year with the Lady Rockets, Kirby has become Ms. Versatility in her ability to play any position on the field.

That willingness to do what her team needed, coupled with a drive to exceed at any position, is what makes Kirby so valuable, according to Lady Rocket coach



Macyn Kirby signs her letter of intent to continue her career at Lipscomb University.

Tribune Photo by Chris Siers

Shelby Lightfoot.

"Just being an athlete, that key word in general, is a big concept. Going into Lipscomb, knowing she can play any position, is going to make her valuable moving forward," Lightfoot said.

Even back to her freshman season, Kirby has had the dream of

playing Division I college softball.

"It's exciting when you see girls go to the next level. A lot of them come in as freshmen and we talk about what their goal is. Their goal doesn't have to be a college athlete, but Macyn had big goals. She wanted to be that DI athlete. She's worked every day.

We've put her in multiple positions, we've put her in adversity and just her hard work and determination have gotten her there," Lightfoot said.

When it came to choosing a school, Lipscomb always stood out to Kirby.

"Lipscomb was my No. 1 school. I had other

target schools, but Lipscomb has been my No. 1 since Day 1. I love the atmosphere with the Christianity, the small campus and a big thing for me was staying close to home," she said.

With her versatility and ability to play just about any position on the field, Lightfoot sees that adaptability to

handle any position she plays as one of Kirby's key strengths as she transitions to the collegiate level.

"She's quick. She's definitely going to bring speed. She's a slapper, so she's going to put the ball on the ground, but she's also been developing her power over the past few years. As she develops and gets older, she'll have the ability to hit it out of the park as well. When you add speed and power together, that's a deadly combination," Lightfoot said.

"I'm willing to play any position that will get me on the field. I'm comfortable with both infield and outfield," Kirby said.

Throughout her entire playing career, Kirby has plenty of fond memories of the game, but by far her favorite was playing for the state championship Lady Rockets in 2021.

"I have plenty of great memories, but the state championship is definitely No. 1," she said.

Once she arrives on campus, Kirby plans to pursue a degree in biology.

"Right now, I want to major in biology because in the future I want to be a physician's assistant and study in sports medicine," she said.

Tigers rally from 15-point deficit, beat Giles Co.

By Chris Siers
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LEWISBURG — Trailing by as many as 15 points in the third quarter to visiting Giles County on Friday night, the Marshall County Tigers (6-2) flipped the script on the Bobcats and rallied for a 67-62, non-district win over their rivals from Pulaski.

The difference between the first and second half according to Tiger coach Lavon King? A much better defensive effort in the second half.

"They stepped up and played defense. That was one of the biggest things we tried to preach in pregame and warmups. We did a lot better job in the second half," he said.

Giles County's Jake Cardin seemingly scored at will during a monster first half in which he piled up 16 points.

But while Cardin was able to score from multiple levels, the Bobcats' leading scorer managed just a single field goal in the second half.

When it came time to corral the sharpshooter from Giles County, King said it was just a matter of challenging his team to respond defensively.

They responded. "It was one of those things where we challenged a couple of guys to step up and rise to the occasion because we knew what they were capable of defensively," he said.

After building a 38-26 lead by halftime the Tigers went on an absolute tear in the second half and thanks to a 27-point fourth quarter, built a 10-point lead late in the final frame.

In the massive fourth quarter, the Tigers



Jamahl Gentry makes an acrobatic move to the rim, scores and draws the foul. He led the Tigers with 21 points on Friday night.

Tribune Photos by Chris Siers



Aja Jones draws the foul as he goes up for two.

were able to claw their way back into the game by drawing fouls and cashing in at the charity stripe.

In total, Marshall

County made good on 19-of-25 attempts at the line, including a 12-of-17 effort in the fourth quarter alone.

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Middle quarters lead Tigerettes to big win over Lady Bobcats

By Chris Siers
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LEWISBURG — Tigerette coach David Steely has seen improvements from his squad in practice, but it hasn't necessarily transitioned into play on the court—until Friday night.

In the rivalry matchup, the Tigerettes successfully ran its pressure defense and turned Giles County over on several occasions in the 57-37 win over the Lady Bobcats.

"The press was definitely big for us. They made a couple of threes that were big shots for them, but we responded well and the press was big. We were able to get some turnovers and get some easy shots," Steely said.

Giles County relied on some early perimeter shots to help build a 12-10 lead by the end of the first quarter, but when Marshall County was at its best on Friday, the Tigerettes successfully executed its full-court pressure defense and created extra possessions, which translated into points on the board. A monster, 14-0 run to start the second quarter allowed the Tigerettes to create a 10-point lead by halftime.

As part of the run, Kayla Keiler and Mashawna Ridley combined for 17 first-half points as Marshall County led 28-18 by halftime.

After holding the Lady Bobcats to just six points in the second quarter, the Tigerette defense allowed just six more in the third, while posting 13 of their own.

"Mashawna is a perimeter player who is starting to go inside. She's starting to do it all. Her rebounding is really improving. Kayla had a big game tonight,



Kayla Keiler surveys the floor before finding the open pass during the third quarter on Friday night.

Tribune Photos by Chris Siers



Demiayah Blackman is fouled as she goes up for two against Giles County.

controlling us. The team just played well," Steely said.

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