

# Defense ends losing streak for Lady Rockets

By **Kacy Kincaid**  
Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Forrest Lady Rockets (2-5) hosted the Liberty Creek Lady Wolves (3-3) Friday night, ending their five-game losing streak with a 43-34 win.

In the end, it was the hustle and defensive efforts of the Lady Rockets that put them on top.

Forrest had a strong start early in the game, coming out quick with a 7-0 lead, causing Liberty Creek to call a timeout only a minute and thirty seconds into the game.

A short scoring drought and missed rebounding opportunities for the Lady Rockets allowed the Wolves to start inching in, ultimately taking the lead 9-8.

Two made free throws from sophomore Kinslee Inlow and a basket from the elbow from senior Macy Kirby put the Lady Rockets back in the lead.

But the Wolves continued to put up an offensive battle, driving the lane and drawing fouls.

With twenty seconds remaining in the half, sophomore Anna Rabun knocked down a shot from the corner, keeping the Lady Rockets within striking distance.

At the half, Liberty Creek had the 16-15 lead.

The Lady Rockets held their own offensively in the third quarter, Inlow, Carli Warner, and Josie Brown all finding net from behind the arc, maintaining the lead.

Forrest turned up the defensive heat in the fourth quarter, creating turnovers and taking advantage of the Wolves' mishaps on the opposite end, Senior Megan Mealer getting the Lady Rockets started with a steal and a made layup, while also drawing the foul.

It was Mealer again making the grab from Liberty Creek, with a pass to Kirby for the easy layup, while moments later Kirby got the steal resulting in



Tribune Photo by Kacy Kincaid

**Kinslee Inlow goes in for the layup after a Macyn Kirby steal.**

a layup for Inlow, giving Forrest their biggest lead of the night at 38-28.

After spending some time at the foul line in double bonus, the Lady Rockets sealed the win, 43-34.

Inlow led the Lady Rockets

with 13 points.

Liberty Creek	9	7	11	—	34	
Forrest	8	7	12	16	—	43

Liberty Creek: Madison Fitzgerald 2, Delaney Corlew 2, Addi Kiser 11, Katie Cathey 7, Taylor West 12  
Forrest: Anna Rabun 2, Macyn Kirby 12, Kinslee Inlow 13, Megan Mealer 8, Josie Brown 3, Carli Warner 3, Meagan Scaggs 2  
3 point Goals: Liberty Creek: Kiser; Forrest: Inlow 2, Brown, Warner.  
Halftime score: Liberty Creek 16 Forrest 15.

# Rockets fall in heartbreaker after Wolves' buzzer-beater 3

By **Kacy Kincaid**  
Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Forrest Rockets have had some heartbreakingly close games this season, the disappointment palpable Friday night in Chapel Hill as the Liberty Creek Wolves sunk a buzzer-beating three to take the win over the Rockets, 48-45.

Senior Davin Porter led the Rockets with 24 points on the night, getting double-figure help from Ben Villazon with 10.

It was a slow start for the Rockets, letting the Wolves get out to an early lead going into the second quarter, 14-6.

A three-point shot from Trace Collier early in the second brought the Wolves to a comfortable 11-point advantage.

But it didn't last long.

Porter had a solid second quarter with eight points, one being a sinker from the corner after a Ryan Meglis steal, giving the Rockets the lead.

It was Porter again getting the steal on the inbound with 2.1 seconds left in the half, hitting the open layup.

The Rockets led 23-19 at the half after outscoring the Wolves in the second quarter 17-5.

The second half proved to be an all out scoring battle, and the Rocket defense allowed no points from the Wolves' leading scorer Dylan Delk, who led the Wolves with 17 points.

At the start of the fourth, the score was even at 34.



Tribune Photo by Kacy Kincaid

**Mason Harper drives in for the layup.**

Porter had another strong quarter with eight points, but it was Villazon coming through with the biggest three-point goal of the night with only seven seconds left in the game, tying it up 45-45.

On the other end,

Liberty Creek found themselves without a good shot, calling a timeout with a mere 1.1 seconds left on the clock.

The sideline inbound made it to Peyton Mattingly, who nailed the catch and shoot for

the win.

Liberty Creek	14	5	15	14	—	48
Forrest	6	17	11	11	—	45

Liberty Creek: Riley Clifton 9, Peyton Mattingly 3, Trace Collier 3, Dylan Delk 17, Jackson Carpenter 3, Brian Rager 13  
Forrest: Mason Harper 5, Ben Villazon 10, Jimmy Bond 2, Josh Rumley 2, Ryan Meglis 2, Davin Porter 24  
3 point goals: Liberty Creek: Delk 3, Clifton, Mattingly, Collier; Forrest: Porter 4, Villazon 2.  
Halftime score: Forrest 23, Liberty Creek 19.



Tribune Photo by Chris Siers

**Mashawna Ridley pulls up for a jumper.**

## Tigerettes

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last win over Giles County came back in January of 2020, which Steely said played into his team's focus and drive on Friday night.

"It's always great to beat them anytime. It's been a few games since we've beaten them, so it feels good," he said.

"They beat us right-handed a few times, but overall we did a good job. We did have lots of energy. Some of that was Giles County and some of that was us being hungry for a win."

Keiler led three Tigerettes in double figures with a game-high 17 points, while Ridley added 14.

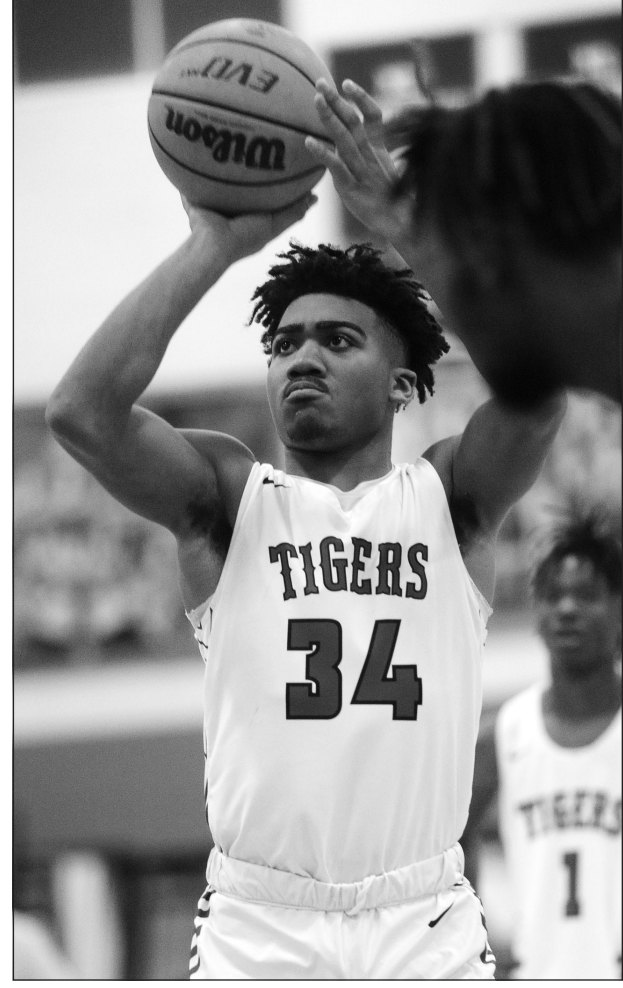
Demiyah Blackman chipped in 13 as well.

Friday night's win was a step in the right direction for the Tigerettes, who have practiced well of late, but were able to transition into a full, four-quarter effort.

"We played a lot better tonight. Just keep getting better—that's been the focus since Day 1. I've been seeing it in practice, but haven't really seen it in a game until tonight," Steely said.

Giles Co.	12	6	6	13	—	37
Marshall Co.	10	18	13	16	—	57

Giles Co.: Karson Brown 11, Kiyah Gibson 9, Anya Coffey 7, Erya Garrett 5, Katiah Dudley 3, Caydee Pipkins, Kaci Stevenson.  
Marshall Co.: Kayla Keiler 17, Mashawna Ridley 14, Demiyah Blackman 13, Maggie Steely 5, Caroline Hollingsworth 4, Jachelle Ridley 3, Karlie Lohr.  
3-Point goals: Marshall Co. (5): M. Ridley 2, Keiler 2, Steely; Giles Co. (3): Gibson, Garrett, Coffey.  
Halftime score: Marshall Co. 28, Giles Co. 18.



Tribune Photo by Chris Siers

**Jayden Randolph takes aim and drills a free throw in the fourth quarter.**

## Tigers

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Nine different Tigers penciled their name in the scoring column and keeping with recent trends, it was Jamahl Gentry who provided the bulk of the fireworks on the offensive end of the court.

He led three Tigers in double figures with 21 points, while Jayden Hart and Jabrae Howard each chipped in 11.

"That's one of the things I try to tell the guys. You never know when your number is

going to get called. We played 10 or 11 guys today," King said.

Cardin led all scorers with 24 points, but was limited in effectiveness in the second half with only eight points.

The win marked the fifth-straight victory for Marshall County, as the Tigers hit the

Giles Co.	21	17	11	13	—	62
Marshall Co.	12	14	14	27	—	67

Giles Co.: Jake Cardin 24, K.T. Turner 15, Jacon Coffey 9, Kareem Bryant 7, Matt King 5, Clay Mitchell 2.  
Marshall Co.: Jamahl Gentry 21, Jabrae Howard 11, Jayden Hart 11, Aja Jones 7, Marcus O'Neal 6, Montai Vaughn 3, Markal Harris 3, Jayden Randolph 3, KiMarion Allen 2.  
3-Point goals: Marshall Co. (4): Gentry 2, Howard, Harris; Giles Co. (4): Turner 2, Cardin, Bryant.  
Halftime score: Giles Co. 38, Marshall Co. 26.

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