

Swift makes college pick

By Chris Siers
sports@t-g.com

When it came down to making his college pick, Forrest standout Tayton Swift narrowed his choice between two schools.

Though both had their merits, it was the advice of a close friend that helped Swift make his decision.

"I really narrowed it down between Tech and MTSU, and it was honestly one of the toughest decisions in my life. Brenton Burchell said "Go where you feel like they need you the most." That kind of narrowed it down for me and helped me decide," Swift said.

In front of a crowd of teammates, family and friends, Swift made his official college announcement and signed his letter of intent to continue his collegiate career at Tennessee Tech.

"It really means a lot. It's been a long journey with a lot of ups and downs. The coaching staff at Forrest has done a really good job to help me get to where I am today. I couldn't ask for more. I really appreciate everyone who has supported me through this journey. I'm just really excited to go play in college," he said.

Swift made his living with the Rockets as the go-to, between the tackles running back.

Having entered the program known for establishing the run and sporting a loaded stable of backs, Swift's work ethic pushed him through the depth chart



Tayton Swift makes his announcement that he will continue his football career at Tennessee Tech.

Tribune Photos by Chris Siers



Swift was the go-to ball carrier for the Rockets during his senior season.

as he became the go-to source for ground production during his career with the Rockets.

"He came in as a freshman and was a skinny kid, but you knew he had something with his work ethic. He left it all out on the field. That's what we look for here—kids giving their all," Forrest coach Eli Stephenson said.

While he was a dynamic playmaker with the ball in his hands, the coaching staff at Tennessee Tech see Swift's potential on the defensive side of the ball.

"The coaches at Tech see me as playing DB and more of a nickel back to kind of take care of things on the defensive side. They've also talked about putting me at a slot receiver and running back," Swift said.

"He'll fit in. He has a lot to learn a new scheme, but he's a new kid that will succeed at whatever he wants to do," Stephenson said.

One of the things that stood out to Stephenson and the Rocket coaching staff was the hard work and dedication Swift put into bettering his game.

"He came in as a freshman and was a skinny kid, but you knew he had something with his work ethic. He left it all out on the field. That's what we look for here—kids giving their all," Stephenson said.

"I'm always excited for a kid to be able to move on and play college. I knew it was his dream. He's got a great opportunity. I think he's

See **Signed**, Page B2

Hart, Jones lead Tigers past 'Dawgs

By Chris Siers
sports@t-g.com

LEWISBURG — Jamahl Gentry has been the go-to guy for point production for Marshall County as of late.

While Cornersville limited Gentry to just four points in Thursday night's county rivalry matchup, the Tigers saw others fill the void on the offensive end of the floor as Marshall County finished its sweep of Cornersville with a 53-32 win.

It was a slow start for both squads out of the gate as Cornersville was able to limit the Tigers to just 10 points in the opening frame.

"They have a good team. They're quick and fast. We had a really good first quarter, but after that, things started not going our way at times," Bulldog coach Dakota Brown said.

After a slow start, Marshall County's Jayden Hart took control of the game in the second quarter and attacked the paint, going for nine of his game-high 22 points.

"He (Hart) does a remarkable job as far as running the floor. As long as he continues playing like that, he's going to be a special player," Tiger coach Lavon King said.

While Gentry was limited on the offensive end of the court, the Tiger point guard continued to wreak havoc



Jayden Hart caps a fast break with a layup. He finished with a game-high 22 points.

Tribune Photo by Chris Siers

on the Bulldogs from a defensive standpoint.

"We talked about him (Gentry) quite a bit, more so of him on defense, but we did a good job on him," Brown said.

"He's always going

to bring it as far as defense. Sometimes it's good for other guys to step up and make big plays and big shots. As far as the scoring, he doesn't have to be the guy all the time. It was

See **Tigers**, Page B2

Tigerettes get revenge on Lady 'Dawgs

By Chris Siers
sports@t-g.com

LEWISBURG — After Cornersville's Ady Gentry went for a game-high 19 points in their previous meeting earlier this season, Marshall County's focus entering Thursday night's county rivalry clash was to lock down the Lady Bulldog sharpshooter.

That's just what they did as the Tigerettes held on for the 34-31 win in the low-scoring thriller.

"We rebounded a little better and played a little more aggressively. We were able to keep Ady (Gentry) under control a little better than we did at their place," Tigerette coach David Steely said.

It wasn't an offensive masterpiece by either chance, but after trailing for the bulk of regulation, Cornersville made it interesting late and was able to trim the Marshall County lead to one possession inside of a minute to play.

Even with the late push, Marshall County connected on enough free throws in the final minute to stave off the Cornersville comeback bid.

"We made enough to win and made enough to stay where we were up three or a little more," Steely said.

"Defensively, we were able to stay with them and understanding who they wanted to go to and what they wanted to do."



Mashawna Ridley (21) drives to the rim for Marshall County. She led all scorers with 12 points.

Tribune Photos by Chris Siers



Cornersville point guard Jayli Childress surveys the floor before setting up a run at the goal.

As a team, the Tigerettes shot 13-of-21 attempts, with seven coming in the fourth quarter.

For Cornersville, it was an offensive struggle from the opening

tip-off. "We didn't swing the ball very well and we held the ball too much. We had mismatches inside and didn't even

See **Tigerettes**, Page B2