

Offense a struggle for Lady Rockets vs. Eagleville

By **Chris Siers**
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CHAPEL HILL — Simply put, offense was tough to come by for the Forrest Lady Rockets in a 47-28 home loss to Eagleville on Friday night.

Eagleville exploded for 18 points out of the gate, highlighted by eight points from Brinli Bain, including a pair of three's, while Forrest struggled to find open shots from the floor.

Freshman Kaylin Pope scored four points in the opening quarter, including a pair of free throws.

Still, Eagleville built an 18-6 lead by the end of the first.

That lead only grew in the second quarter, as Eagleville stretched its lead to 19 points by halftime, while Forrest managed just five points, a three-pointer by Macyn Kirby and a basket by senior Carli Warner.

Scoring slowed some for Eagleville into the second half, while Forrest was able to work



Sophomore Kinslee Inlow directs traffic in the first half against Eagleville on Friday night.

its way to the line in the third period.

Still, the Lady Rockets managed just 3-of-5 attempts in the quarter, while sophomore Kinslee Inlow knocked down

five points, including a three-pointer.

Open looks continued to elude the Lady Rockets into the fourth, with Josie Brown accounting for the lone field goal of

the frame.

Eagleville's Eliza McClaren and Brinli Bain combined for 25 points to lead the Lady Eagles, while Pope's eight points was the top mark



Carli Warner gets an open look and fires a three-pointer.

Tribune Photos by Chris Siers

Eagleville	18	12	9	8	—	47
Forrest	6	5	10	7	—	28

Eagleville: Eliza McClaren 13, Brinli Bain 12, Alex Klarer 9, Izzy Sawyer 7, Jules Weese 3, Rylee Warbritton 3.
Forrest: Kaylin Pope 8, Macyn Kirby 7, Kinslee Inlow 7, Carli Warner 4, Josie Brown 2.
3-Point goals: Eagleville (4): Bain 2, Weese, McClaren; Forrest (2): Kirby, Inlow.
Halftime score: Eagleville 30, Forrest 11.

FRANKLIN NAMED REGION 5-A BACK OF THE YEAR



Tribune File Photo by Chris Siers

Cornersville running back Ben Franklin took home the Region 5-A Running Back of the Year honors. Also earning All-Region honors were Riley Qualls, Blaine Woodard, David Metcalf and Blake Estes.

Tide's stars not skipping Sugar Bowl

By **JOHN ZENOR**
AP Sports Writer

Bryce Young and Will Anderson Jr. decided they had unfinished business at Alabama, even if it isn't another shot at a national championship.

The fifth-ranked Crimson Tide stars are sticking around for the Sugar Bowl on Dec. 31 against No. 11 Kansas State instead of joining other high-profile NFL prospects — like Texas All-American running back Bijan Robinson — who are skipping bowl games to get a head start on preparing for the draft and minimize their risk of getting injured.

The decision by Young and Anderson is notable, because they've been floated as candidates for the No. 1 pick.

"Everybody says it's like the business part of it, but when you love the game of football you always have that competitor part of it," said Anderson, who has won several national awards. "Me just being at home with training and sitting down watching the game, I would be feeling so bad or not feeling great about myself, just the competitor in me."

Neither Anderson nor Young has officially announced plans to skip their senior seasons, but it seems almost a foregone conclusion.

Other Southeastern Conference stars have opted out of their bowl games, including Kentucky quarterback Will Levis and running back Chris Rodriguez Jr., LSU defensive lineman BJ Ojulari, Arkansas linebacker Drew Sanders and Tennessee wide receiver Jalin Hyatt.

Nationally, the opt-outs include Robinson, Oregon cornerback Christian Gonzalez, Clemson edge rusher Myles Murphy, Notre Dame tight end Michael Mayer and edge rusher Isaiah Foskey, Penn State cornerback Jey Porter Jr. and North Carolina wide receiver Josh Downs.

And Oklahoma coach Brent Venables said running back Eric Gray, offensive tackles Anton Harrison and Wanya Morris and defensive lineman Jalen Redmond have opted out of the Alamo Bowl.

Playing without quarterback Anthony Richardson and All-America guard O'Cyrus Torrence — among others — Florida lost to Oregon State 30-3 in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Alabama failed to make the College Football Playoffs, and its repeat bid last season was squashed by Georgia in the national championship game. Some Tide players have entered the transfer portal but none have opted out for the NFL.

Young, who won the

2021 Heisman Trophy and has passed for 3,007 yards with 27 touchdowns and five interceptions this season, said playing in the Sugar Bowl "was a pretty clear-cut decision for me."

"I take pride in being a leader on this team," said Young, who missed the Texas A&M game and most of Arkansas with a shoulder injury and didn't have nearly the potent weapons at wide receiver he did the year before. "It's something that's really important to me. It means a lot. I have another chance to go out there to be a leader, to play with my brothers. That's not something I can pass up."

Tide coach Nick Saban thinks playing another big game is a good business decision for players looking to improve their draft stock.

"You know, it's kind of interesting that people opt out of playing for their team, and the way you create value for yourself is to play football," Saban said. "That is the best way you can create value for your future. ... You know, I hear guys all the time say, 'I'm going to get ready for the NFL.' Well, what do you mean? Getting ready for the combine? A lot of the things that you do at the combine are not even relevant to what you do on the football field."



Tribune Photo by Chris Siers

Davin Porter finishes a possession with a layup in the second quarter for Forrest. He posted a game-high 22 points on Friday night.

Porter goes for 22, but Rockets fall to Eagles

By **Chris Siers**
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CHAPEL HILL — After trailing by 12 at halftime, Davin Porter put the Forrest Rockets on his back in the third quarter as he scored 13 of his game-high 22 points.

But even with Porter's second-half effort, the Rockets just couldn't get enough support for him as they fell to their backyard rival Eagleville on Friday night, 52-32.

The Rockets managed just one field goal in the opening frame—a three-pointer by Porter—while Eagleville spread 14 points among five players to take the early lead.

Forrest picked up a big of steam in the second and rallied for nine points, but still trailed by 12 at the half.

Needing a spark, the Rockets were able to successfully feed Porter the ball through the third quarter as the home team was able to orchestrate a

15-11 run through the period.

But as quickly as Forrest's spark came, the Rockets' ran into a buzzsaw in the fourth and managed just a single shot from the floor, courtesy of Porter.

Forrest also was able to work its way to the free throw line throughout the final eight minutes, but cashed in on just 3-of-8 attempts in the quarter.

Eagleville closed the game with a 17-point run through the fourth, highlighted by an efficient 6-of-8 effort at the charity stripe.

Forrest closes the first half of the season in the Nolensville Classic, with games against Nolensville and Summit. The Rockets will be back on their home court on January 3 against Moore County.

Eagleville	14	10	11	17	—	52
Forrest	3	9	15	5	—	32

Eagleville: Camden Cole 14, Kaeden Snitzer 8, Isaac Gazaway 6, C.J. Goers 6, James Bega 5, Brady Burns 2.
Forrest: Davin Porter 22, Jimmy Bond 4, Ryan Meglis 3, Bray McCown 2, Josh Rumley.
3-Point goals: Eagleville (3): Goers 2, Bega; Forrest (2): Porter 2.
Halftime score: Eagleville 24, Forrest 12.

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