

## Swift selected to play in Nashville All American Bowl

By **Kacy Kincaid**  
Sports Writer

NASHVILLE — Though it turned out to be a short-lived stint at Lipscomb Academy Saturday, Forrest High School senior football player Tayton Swift accompanied Team Blaze in the 2023 Nashville All American Bowl, where they faced off with Team Ice, Blaze coming away with the 28-21 win.

“It means the world to me being selected by my peers,” Swift said. “It means a lot because it means they believe in me as much as I believe in myself.”

The Nashville All American Bowl is the premier postseason all-star football game for high school seniors in the southeast region.

“Our coaches are from Overton (High School) and Lipscomb Academy, so it’s a big rivalry for them already,” Swift said.

“I got picked to be on the Overton team, Team Blaze. We’ve done a lot of preparing throughout the week, waking up at 5 a.m. and not going to bed until after midnight. We’ve had a lot of team bonding and getting to know each other. There are a lot of nice guys from a lot of different places.”

Swift, who has been well-known for his offensive play at Forrest, held down the safety position for Blaze.

Unfortunately, only a minute and a half into the second quarter, Swift left the game with an ankle injury after giving Team Ice a hard hit, forcing a fumble that Blaze recovered.

He will continue his



Swift makes the tackle against Team Ice.

Swift played safety for Team Blaze in the Nashville All-American Bowl.

Tribune Photos by Kacy Kincaid

football career at Tennessee Tech in the fall, where he will likely remain in a defensive role.

“The biggest next step for me is, of course, getting this ankle back where it needs to be and getting ready for my next bowl game in Tampa, the Blue-Grey All American Bowl,” Swift said.

“After that I am just striving to get better and get ready for college football. Tech really needs the young guys that are coming



Swift holds up the championship trophy for Team Blaze.

in and they said I could be a possible starter my freshman year, so I have to work hard to get there.”

Now that collegiate players have the right to pursue NIL, Swift has goals around that, too.

“I guess the last thing is just working toward NIL, it’s a big thing with high school and college athletes nowadays, so I want to be able to

get my name out there.” NIL gives players the right to accept money from businesses in exchange for using them in products or advertisements and can also promote themselves or other companies in public appearances.

Swift will be back in action in the Blue-Grey All-American Bowl, which will be broadcast on ESPN3 at noon on January 30.

## Rockets can't match Magnet's offense

By **Kacy Kincaid**  
Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — The Central Magnet Tigers had their way with the Forrest Rockets Monday night in Chapel Hill, leaving town with a 65-31 win.

Rockets Head Coach Shane Chapman went with a much-revised starting lineup, the Tigers taking an early lead in the first, 18-4, Kelley Toombs and Jayden Russell keeping the Rockets on the board.

Hope was alive in the second quarter with the Rockets holding the Tigers to only 10 points and finding some buckets themselves, but Central Magnet held a 16-point lead going into the half.

Though the Rockets had their best showing in the third, the towering Tigers continued to add cushion to their already sturdy advantage, outscoring the Rockets 22-13.

Senior Mason Harper was able to snag five of his seven points in the frame, while four other Rockets made contributions.

Throughout the game, turnovers dug a deeper hole for the Rockets, while also putting up only six points in the fourth.

Harper led the Rockets with seven points,



Tribune Photo by Kacy Kincaid

Bray McCown goes in for the layup for the Rockets. He finished with four points on Monday night.

and Davin Porter was held to only six. Mac Martin led the Tigers with 15 points.

The Rockets will travel to Unionville Friday for a matchup with the Community Vikings. Tipoff is set for 7:30 pm.

Central Magnet 18 10 22 18 — 65  
Forrest 4 8 13 6 — 31

Central Magnet: Mac Martin 15, Will Becker 13, Mason Brown 9, Jake Maddox 6, Alex Perry 5, Garrett Florida 5, Stef Scarville 5, John Hays 4, Aljiah Dean 2, Isaac Smith  
Forrest: Mason Harper 7, Davin Porter 6, Bray McCown 4, Ryan Meglis 4, Ben Villazon 2, Eli Bell 2, Kelley Toombs 2, Jayden Russell 2, Josh Doud 2  
3-Point goals: Central Magnet (6): Brown 2, Becker, Perry, Florida, Martin; Forrest (1): Harper.  
Halftime score: Central Magnet 28, Forrest 12.



Tribune Photo by Kacy Kincaid

Macyn Kirby shoots the jumper in the first quarter. She led with 27 points.

## Kirby's heroics not enough for Lady Rockets

By **Kacy Kincaid**  
Sports Writer

CHAPEL HILL — It was a tale of turnovers and a tough night on the glass for the Forrest Lady Rockets Monday night, despite a stellar outing by senior Macyn Kirby.

The Lady Rockets hosted the Central Magnet Lady Tigers, who took the 62-49 win.

The first few minutes were an even matchup, but it didn't last long as the Lady Tigers went

on a scoring run to take a 16-7 lead going into the second quarter.

The outsized Lady Rockets held their own in the paint defensively, forcing the Tigers to up their perimeter play, and they did not disappoint, knocking down six threes in the first half.

Central executed a full-court press that created multiple Forrest turnovers and a scoring drought that lasted two minutes.

Before the half, For-

rest found its groove and Kirby knocked down a three-pointer and on the next play, found senior Samantha Hopkins posted up on the block for an additional two.

Megan Mealer picked off a pass moments later to ride in for the easy layup.

The Tigers held a strong 32-18 lead at the half.

The groove the Lady Rockets found before the half continued on

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