

## Lady 'Dawgs stun 9-A leading Huntland

### Polk's 28 leads the way for key district win

By **Chris Siers**  
sports@t-g.com

**CORNERSVILLE** — Coaches want their teams playing their best basketball down the stretch of the regular season district slate and hope to transition that successful play into the postseason.

Cornersville Lady 'Dawg coach Hayden McMahon is starting to see that transition with his team after beating Moore County on Friday night for the first time in 14 years and after upsetting Huntland (17-9, 4-1) on Tuesday in a come-from-behind thriller.

"They (Huntland)

were the No. 1 seed and Moore County was the No. 2 seed, and we beat both of them. It was the first time we beat Moore County in 14 years the other night and they (Huntland) haven't lost a regular season district game in three or four years," McMahon said.

The game got off to a typical Huntland Lady Hornet start by stretching the floor, making the extra pass and knocking down several early triples.

It was a balanced start by Huntland, dispersing 20 first-half points among four players, with Logan McLennan knocking down three triples in the opening

half. But make no mistake, this was Alicia Polk's game.

Polk was virtually unstoppable and accounted for 13 of the Lady 'Dawgs first-half points, with the only other basket coming from Ady Gentry in the first quarter.

Still, Cornersville (10-11, 2-3) trailed 20-15 at the intermission.

Even trailing, Cornersville never panicked and the composure, according to McMahon, was one of the keys to Tuesday night's win.

"When we get behind, or we're tied, we've got to keep that same composure. You just have to keep fighting and keep playing if you get down and that's what they did," he said.

By the end of the third, the Lady Bulldogs had cut the Huntland lead to one point.

Polk and the Lady 'Dawgs put the game out of the reach with a near-perfect fourth quarter, by drawing contact and cashing in at the charity stripe.

As a team, Cornersville shot 11-of-12 attempts from the free throw line in the fourth quarter alone, with Polk making good on 8-of-9 attempts.

While McMahon has come to expect a 20-plus point production night out of Polk over the last several games, it hasn't just been her ability to score that's impacted the game, but also to distribute the ball and find quality shots for positive possessions.

"She's been on a roll the last few games. I think she's had at least 20 in the last three or four games. She's hot right now and she's still



Tribune Photos by Chris Siers

**Alicia Polk draws heavy contact as she battles her way to the rim and goes up for two. She led all scorers with 28 points.**

facilitating and distributing the ball to other people. She's getting to the bucket and taking good shots. I like quality shots over quantity, every day," McMahon said.

Polk led all scorers with 28 points, while Gentry chipped in 10.

Anna Wood and Katie Powers added eight and three, respectively.

McLennan led Huntland with 22 points.

Cornersville hosts another key District 9-A matchup on Friday

night, hosting Fayetteville City.

In their previous meeting, Fayetteville escaped with a thrilling five overtime win against Cornersville.

With all signs pointing towards his team clicking at the right time, McMahon is pleased with the composure and morale of his team as the regular season draws to a close.

"We're coming along at the right time. We had a few lessons we

had to learn in the overtime games that I thought we should have won, but it's been a blessing in disguise for us," he said.

Cornersville will host Fayetteville City on Friday night at 6 p.m. in a key District 9-A tilt.

Huntland	10	10	8	12	— 40
Cornersville	8	7	12	22	— 49

Huntland: Logan McLennan 22, Jocy May 12, Yareli Avalos 4, Judah Hill 2.  
Cornersville: Alicia Polk 28, Ady Gentry 10, Anna Wood 8, Katie Powers 3.  
3-Point goals: Huntland (5); McLennan 3, May 2; Cornersville (4): Polk 2, Powers, Wood.  
Halftime score: Huntland 20, Cornersville 15.



**Anna Wood steps back and drills a corner three-pointer in the second half against Huntland on Tuesday night.**

## Lady Rockets come together for win over Fairview

By **Kacy Kincaid**  
Sports Writer

**CHAPEL HILL** — The Lady Rockets were all hands on deck in their game at home against the Fairview Lady Jackets Tuesday night, where they walked away with the 51-39 victory.

Although a slow start for both teams, Forrest picked up steam in the latter half of the first quarter.

Eighth-grader Adisyn Howes found fellow eighth-grader Sienna Borba for an easy basket, putting the Lady Rockets up by three.

"I thought our eighth graders came in and gave us a nice little boost right there," Forrest coach Hal Murrell said.

"It gives us some depth that we were struggling with before Christmas."

It was Megan Mealer and Kinslee Inlow coming together late in the first with a pair of threes, with Mealer tacking on a nice move under the basket for an additional two, cushioning the lead at 14-7.

Freshman Kaylin Pope turned on the jets in the second frame, picking up six of her 11 points on the night.

"She's so athletic," Murrell said.

"She's an undersized player. We've been trying to play her in the post and defensively, she struggles guarding a bigger girl in the post



Tribune Photos by Kacy Kincaid

**Kinslee Inlow shoots the three for the Lady Rockets. She ended the night with nine points.**

because of her size, but she's so athletic that she can pressure the guards. So, I thought she did a really good job of shutting down their guard, No. 12. I can't take her off the floor because she's so athletic. She's still making freshman mistakes, but

the energy she brings is relentless. That's one thing I never have to question about her. She's doing a great job."

Josie Brown kept the wheels turning for Forrest going into the half, knocking down the three ball with 30 seconds left, giving the La-



**Kaylin Pope goes in for the layup. She put up 11 points, along with Megan Mealer, in the win on Tuesday.**

dy Rockets a 28-17 lead. "I thought the first half was a lot of balanced scoring," Murrell said.

"We didn't do a good job of boxing out at times in the first half. We weren't crashing the offensive glass."

Returning from the

break, it was a differently played game on both sides, both the Lady Rockets and Lady Jackets struggling to handle the ball and maintain consistency.

Thanks to frequent trips to the foul line, the Lady Jackets hung in through the second

half, but had a tough time against the Forrest press, turning the ball over for the Lady Rockets to take advantage.

"We implemented a press, thought it was effective and disrupted what they were doing," Murrell said.

"It was very obvious, too, that we hadn't played in a week. There were a lot of mistakes, especially in the second half. I thought fatigue set in. The game was called a little bit different than it had been throughout the course of the game. We gotta play without fouling. We have a lot of self-inflicted wounds that we need to clean up for the tournament."

Mealer and Pope both led the Rockets with 11 each, Macy Kirby also picking up double digits with 10.

"Macy has been that person for us all year that carried it, and we've always said she can't do it by herself, so it was good that we had other people step up," said Murrell.

The Lady Rockets will meet Grundy County on Friday night in Chapel Hill for a district matchup.

Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Forrest	17	11	10	13	— 51
Fairview	10	7	10	12	— 39

Forrest: Megan Mealer 11, Kaylin Pope 11, Macy Kirby 10, Kinslee Inlow 9, Josie Brown 3, Carli Warner 3, Sienna Borba 2, Sadie Smith 2 Fairview: Maddie Brewer 13, Emma Sharp 12, Anna Marie Brown 7, Addie Sullivan 4, Abby Huffman 2, Maddison McGowan 1 3-Point goals: Forrest (3): Inlow, Mealer, Brown; Fairview (2): Brewer, Sharp Halftime score: Forrest 28, Fairview 17.