

## Charlestown girls win sectional title contest over Crawford Co., 47-43

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The talk before the finals of the Class AAA Sectional 30 finals last Tuesday (Feb. 16) was that if Charlestown gets to the free throw line they would probably win. They have done well from the free throw line all year, and have continued to do well in the sectional tournament.

Alicia Zollman was at the line with 7.1 seconds left in the game and het Lady Pirates clinging to a slim 45-43 lead. The senior calmly sank both free throws and gave the team their final 47-43 margin of victory.

"That was clutch," said Charlestown coach Tony Hall of the Zollman free throws.

Crawford County's Chelsea Jellison had just gotten her Lady Pack to within 45-42 when she swished a three with 11.2 left. Both teams took separate time outs immediately after the Jellison three, setting up the finals free throws by Zollman.

"Free throws have been our friend all year long," Hall said. "A couple of times tonight we tried to act like we didn't like free throws, but we hit enough to win."

Charlestown in fact hit on 24 of 28 attempts from behind the line, good enough for 85.7 percent. Crawford County hit 8 of 14 attempts (57.1 percent).

Charlestown had led 42-35 just about a minute earlier (1:17) after the Lady Pirates' Jenah Sherrill canned a pair from the line.

Ashley Forbes hit a three (1:06) for the Lady Pack and got Crawford within four at 42-38, and after Zollman hit a free throw for Charlestown, Forbes scored two for the Lady Pack again from the line, inching her team to within 43-40.

Miller hit a pair of freebies with 18 seconds left to up the lead to 45-40, but Jellison hit a three at the 11 second mark, setting up the final free throws by Zollman.

Hall was appreciative of the efforts of Crawford County in the game. He said, "Crawford County played a tremendous game. We never got enough space to feel comfortable. Crawford County's a tough team, they're well coached, and we couldn't get rid of them."

With the regional at Jasper looming just four days away (on Saturday February 20), the Lady Pirates certainly had no time to celebrate the sectional win.

"We don't have time to celebrate; that's just something you've got to deal with," Hall said. "You play whoever they put in front of you."

The game in fact started off tight, and the Lady Pirates had a slim 12-10 lead after the 1st quarter. The lead was tied at 2, 4, and 8 during the opening period.

Bennison helped Charlestown to a lead of 17-12 early in the 2nd period, with a three point play and a bucket scored.

The Lady Pirates led 20-15 at the intermission, and increased the lead to 24-15 three minutes into the 3rd period, when Emily young scored off of a fast break.

Crawford had gotten it to 26-23 after scoring a pair of threes from Forbes and Jellison.

Charlestown (14-9) was led in scoring by Amanda Miller's 20 points, and team mates Zollman and Bennison scored 9 each. Crawford County (10-13) was led by Jellison's 20 markers. Forbes added 10 to the effort.