

## Charlestown falls in Sectional final to Lady Cubs

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Determination, dedication, heart, hard-working... those words are not always used to describe high school girls basketball teams, but this year, those words definitely described the Lady Pirates of Charlestown High School. The Lady Pirates hit their home floor on Tuesday, February 11 to begin their Sectional quest. Charlestown sent the Lady Braves of Brownstown Central (16-3) home before turning back Scottsburg in the semi-final round.

The Lady Pirates were ready and determined to work to the last buzzer in the championship game.

Charlestown senior center Megan Brooks recorded the first bucket for the Lady Pirates at the 5:02 mark of the first quarter. A basket from Madison's Ireland Falconberry pushed the Lady Cubs lead to 13-5 and forced a Charlestown time out.

Charlestown's Kaitlynn Henning drilled a triple with 33.4 seconds remaining in the period to cut the Madison lead to 17-10. Henning added a lay in at the buzzer as she recorded nine of Charlestown's 12 points in the opening eight minutes of play.

Madison held the 19-12 lead after the first quarter of play.

The second quarter seen both teams battle for every point. Neither team hit double digits in the stanza. Madison tallied seven points in the quarter with Whitney Wynn recording five points. Charlestown added six points in the period with junior power forward Justice Burdin recording four points in the quarter.

The Lady Cubs held the 26-18 lead heading into the halftime break.

Charlestown's Brooks cut the Madison lead to six, 26-20, to open the second half. Another quick bucket from Brooks forced a Madison timeout at the 7:07 mark as the Lady Cubs led, 26-22. The Lady Pirates kept it close as a basket from Henning and senior power forward Hayley Layton kept Charlestown to within four points.

The Lady Pirates would not get any closer as Madison began to pull ahead. An old fashioned three point play from Whitney Wynn pushed the Lady Cubs lead back to 10 at the 3:34 mark of the third quarter.

Madison senior guard Alex Thurnall drained a three to push the Lady Cubs lead, 47-28, and end the scoring in the third quarter.

Charlestown finished strong as they recorded 18 points in the final stanza including an old-fashioned three from Brooks at the 6:46 mark and a triple from senior guard Lauren Crowe at the 2:26 mark.

The Lady Cubs added 23 points in the last period to capture the 72-46 victory.

Charlestown was led by Kaitlynn Henning with 18 points while Justice Burdin added 11 points.

Madison was led by Olivia Crozier with 17 points and Alex Thurnall with 16 points, including four from behind the arc. Whitney Wynn added 13 and Macky Hecox chipped in 10 points.

Madison (16-2) will advance to the Jasper Regional this Saturday to face the Southridge Raiders (16-5). The Jasper Regional will also feature Evansville Mater Dei (23-1) and Rushville (19-4).

Charlestown finished the year at 14-8. The Lady Pirates had five seniors play their last game in a Charlestown uniform including Jessica Farmer, Megan Brooks, Lauren Crowe, Hayley Layton and Kim Knight.