

LADY CAV RUNNERS WIN UNION JAMBOREE



By Ron Barry

As **Coach Julie Nass** continues to build her Crockett County cross-country program, her runners continue to build on her building.

The Lady Cavs kicked off their 2023 race season by winning the championship of the **West Tennessee Jamboree** held at Union University Saturday morning, with all five of their scoring races finishing among the top 20 point-getters. Crockett topped all six of the other full teams in attendance, and had two girls in the actual Top 20 of the 89-racer field.

Sophomore **Claire Evans** (pictured above) finished fifth overall to head the Lady Cav effort, and freshman **Avery Thornton** made her high school varsity debut with a 17th-place performance. In the full team competition, those finishes were worth four and eight points for Crockett. (In cross-country, five runners for each team earn points, and the **lower** score is better; then, if two more runners finish higher than another team's fifth-place person, it pushes that team's score higher.)



Following them were senior **Casey Thornton** (24th overall, 13 team points); junior **Harmony Walker** (26th overall, 14 team points), and freshman **Olivia Mann** (34th overall, 17 team points). The next two Crockett racers, seniors **Ester Procopio** and **Kristin Lewis** (43rd and 47th overall) didn't score team points, but finished high enough to push the opposing teams' scores higher. Also running for the Lady Cavs were senior **Leyla Silva** (49th), junior **Ashley Boone** (60th), freshman **Leah Moore** (66th), freshman **Braniya Green** (80th), and freshman **Miley Silva** (81st).

Evans ran a time of 15:48.2 for the 2.2-mile event. Avery Thornton completed the course in 16:51.6 and Casey Thornton finished in 17:53.6.

Crockett's team total of 56 points defeated Trinity Christian Academy (76), University School of Jackson (80), University High School (94), Hutchison School (95), South Gibson (104), and Millington Central (172).

Individually, the race was won by Hutchison's **Meriel Rowland** in 14:01.3. Second place went to Westview's **Halle Trevathan** (15:18.6). In third was USJ's **Addy Kirkland** (15:33.9) and in fourth was University's **Liana Nuckolls** (15:42.2). Rounding out the Top 10 were Crockett's Evans (5th), unattached **Elizabeth Ganier** (6th), Madison's **Kristin Henning** (7th), Bradford's **Ashlin Hardin** (8th), TCA's **Stella Barnett** (9th), and Hardin County's **Lauren Carpenter** (10th).

A youth movement was working for Nass in the boys race as a 14th-place finish by sophomore **Angel Garcia** (*pictured below*) (12:47.4) and a 31st-place effort by freshman **Jacob Wede** (14:06.3) helped Crockett County place sixth among the 14 full teams in the competition. A total of 150 runners raced.

Memphis East captured the team title with 32 points, followed by Madison Academic (65), Hardin County (121), Bradford (164), Tipton-Rosemark Academy (171), **Crockett County (174)**, South Gibson (185), University High School (231), McEwen (241), Memphis-Area Home Education (264), TCA (272), First Assembly Christian School (277), USJ (321), and Millington Central (389).

Other finishers for Crockett were sophomore **Lane Foster** (40th overall), sophomore **Aidan Klonowski** (61st), freshman **Noah Mayfield** (85th), and sophomore **Leck Lucky** (88th).

The boys individual Top 10: 1. **Nathan Smith**, Heat (11:46.9); 2. **Jonathan Lewis**, SGC (12:11.6); 3. **Gabriel Gutierrez**, Mem East (12:17.0); 4. **Jack Mantooth**, Westview; 5. **Julius Brown**, Adamsville; 6. **Jacob Casteel**, Hardin Co; 7. **Elijah Andrews**, East; 8. **Charlie Palmer**, East; 9. **Yianni Sinis**, TRA; 10. **Sawyer Twombly**, East.

Both Crockett teams will next compete at the Lexington Invitational August 22 at 4:30 at the Lexington Soccer Complex.

