

# VOLLEYBALLERS WIN DISTRICT OPENER



Above: Sadie Hoover (2) prepares a serve during the second set.

## By Ron Barry

When Sarah Cherry, Joy Evans, Deonna Cole, or Katherine West get near a volleyball net - and a good setter is anywhere near them - it's about to be "bombs away" on whatever opponent is on the other side of the twine.

Monday night that opponent was Martin Westview, Crockett County's first district foe of the season, and the Lady Chargers left Bill Emerson Memorial Gymnasium with plenty of figurative shrapnel in their blue uniforms.

Coach Bobby Rawson's Lady Cavaliers used a pounding attack to record a straight-set, 3-0 win over Westview, boosting their season record to 7-2 heading into a Tuesday night encounter (also at home) with talented Brighton. Rawson's crew used some knowledge gained over the past weekend, playing in the prestigious Spartan Showdown tournament in Memphis, where the veteran coach said his team saw what it takes to play at the "next level."



Above: Joy Evans (25) delivers one of her several kills vs. Westview.

"We got a chance to see the game at a faster pace," Rawson said. "The girls saw what it will take if we want to step it up. Serves have to be near-perfect, or they'll be coming back at you at twice the speed. We played well there and picked up some good wins, but the teams that beat us showed that we need to play at a higher pace and see things more quickly. Those kinds of tournaments are good for us."



Above: Brooklyn Haynes went on a service run to clinch the match.

Westview was Crockett's first foe from the newly-drawn district which includes Obion County, Dyer County, Dyersburg, and South Gibson. Crockett frankly had little trouble with the Lady Chargers, winning the first two games by lopsided margins and breaking open the third game when Brooklyn Haynes got on a good service run, paired with a variety of slams from Evans and Cherry.

Evans, who's been working her way back into the lineup after an injury prior to the season opener, was particularly dominant Monday night, taking sets from the likes of Bailey Ann Whitby, Haynes, Lynden Cole, Brennan Morris, Kinleigh Lamb, and Sadie Hoover and blasting away mercilessly from the center position.

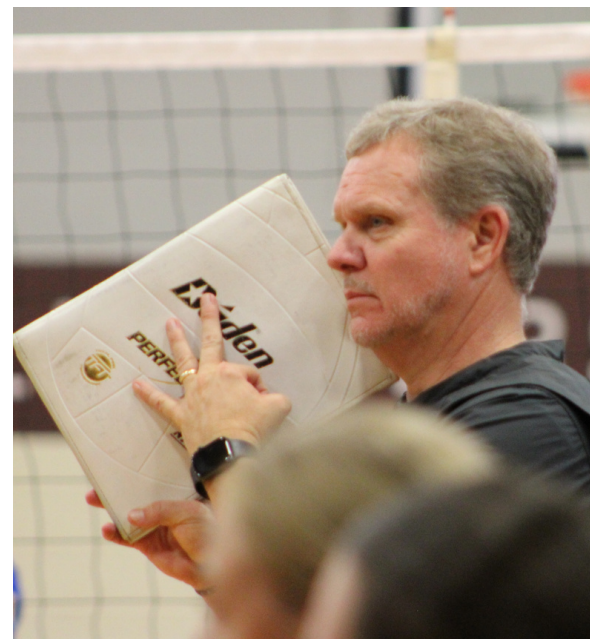
Cherry, West, and Deonna Cole all had their moments as well, and the steady pounding tended to make the rallies short and sweet, in the home team's favor. Rawson was able to substitute freely and allow several reserves to gain some experience.

The Brighton match will have a junior varsity duel at 5 p.m., followed by the varsity contest around 6 p.m., at the conclusion of the JV contest.

Right: Katherine West scored numerous points from her front-line post.



Above: Bailey Ann Whitby (13) and Sarah Cherry (8) plot some at-the-net mischief.



Above: Coach Bobby Rawson signals instructions to his server.