

# TUESDAY SPORTS RECAP

## AUGUST 29TH



**Above:** Joy Evans (25) and Kylee Garrett (22) have an interesting story going on during a team huddle after Set 2.

### By Ron Barry

**Volleyball** – One of the things that can get a coach excited is to have a “young” team that is also blessed with senior leadership.

That’s what Bobby Rawson has with the 2023 version of the Crockett County volleyball team, and Tuesday night his Lady Cavaliers moved to 4-0 in district play and 14-4 overall by solidly defeating South Gibson in Alamo 3-0 in straight sets.

Crockett has done it by blending a talented group of seniors – Sarah Cherry, Joy Evans, Brooklyn Haynes, Bailey Ann Whitby, Kinleigh Lamb, and Lynden Cole – with a younger group that sees considerable playing time each match.

But one of the secrets to their success cannot be overlooked: these girls are athletes, not just volleyball players. That athleticism allows them to make remarkable adjustments, as they did Tuesday night after facing a much-faster pace of play in a weekend tournament in Oxford, Mississippi.



**Above:** Crockett’s power game was in full force against South Gibson. Here Sarah Cherry (8) blasts a kill shot, surrounded by able teammates Lynden Cole (10), Brennan Morris (11), Brooklyn Haynes (1), Bailey Ann Whitby (13), and Joy Evans (25).

“South Gibson doesn’t really have a lot of strong hitters,” Rawson said, “and sometimes that can affect the rhythm of a game. When you play at a faster pace, it’s much easier to get into a rhythm. But when you play a team that isn’t looking to just pound the ball at you, it isn’t as easy to find that rhythm. Sometimes it takes a while. It makes decisions harder on plays – when to drop shot, when to kill, whom to set to – all those things. And when you’re as young as a lot of our players are, sometimes they don’t always make the decisions I’d like them to.”

But don’t get Rawson wrong. He’s far from being critical at this point.

“I know sometimes I need to be more patient as a coach,” he laughed. “But this team has been playing really well. I’m very pleased with the progress we’re making. As we learn how to make the decisions I was talking about, we’ll get even better. But I like where we are so far.”

What has made the Lady Cavaliers a formidable foe thus far is how their athleticism allows them to come at you in different ways. They can play the power game upfront with Cherry, Evans, Katherine West, and Deonna Cole hammering kills, while a multitude of agile backcourt players – Haynes, Lamb, Cole, Brennan Morris, and Sadie Hoover foremost among them – rarely have shots fall between them that can’t be returned.



Throw Whitby into the mix, with the double talents of being the team's top setter and one of the best blockers at the net, and you have a recipe for success. Kylee Garrett, Madi Collins, and Amaria Walker also add depth, primarily in the frontcourt. Helping out primarily in the backcourt are Lily Riley, Khaki Hall, and Jiorgia Elmore.

That doesn't even touch on a crew of able servers who can all get on a run at times. Morris, Haynes, Cole, Whitby, Cherry, and Hoover are all capable of racking up a string of points quickly. Add to that the fact that through the season's first 18 matches, Rawson has often been able to substitute freely with many of his younger players, and several of them continue to show promise for the future.

"When you think of the fact that Katherine and Deonna are still sophomores," Rawson said, "but are really key elements of our offense, that says a lot." And Rawson hasn't even been able to utilize another talented soph, Keeton Holyfield, who has been out with an arm injury thus far.

Crockett will be trying to get through the first half of its district scheduled unscathed Thursday when it hosts defending champion Dyer County. "They're the champs until somebody dethrones them," Rawson said. "But I don't think we'll be afraid of them."

Game time will be in the neighborhood of 6:00 p.m., following a junior varsity match that starts at 5:00.



**Top Right:** Lynden Cole (10) went on a big service run in the final set against South Gibson, helping break open the open close game of the match.

**Middle:** Bailey Ann Whitby (13) waits for the ball to descend so she can whip it over her right shoulder.

**Bottom Right:** Brennan Morris (11) fought off a leg injury and served out the match's final points.





**Left:** Kinleigh Lamb (5) keeps a ball alive as Joy Evans (25), Brooklyn Haynes (1), and Madi Collins (6) move into position to follow up.

**Right:** Sophomore Deonna Cole (14) hammers a kill in front of teammates Kinleigh Lamb (5) and Brooklyn Haynes (1)..



**Left:** Katherine West (3) got into the act, taking a set from Bailey Ann Whitby (13) and blasting it past the defenders.



**Girls Soccer** -The see-saw between defensive battles and offensive blowouts continued for Crockett Tuesday when Coach Stan Jamscek's Lady Cavaliers won a 1-0 squeaker on the road at Huntingdon, with senior goaltender Hannah Johnson making nine saves to post her second straight clean sheet.

Senior Kristin Lewis, who splits her time between the school's soccer and cross-country teams in the summer and fall, tallied the game's lone goal on an assist from Stephanie Joyner as Crockett improved to 3-1-1 for the season.

The Lady Cavaliers travel to Newbern Thursday at 5:30 for a district matchup with Dyer County.



**Above:** Senior Kristin Lewis (9) scored the game's only goal as Crockett's soccer team won at Huntingdon 1-0.



**Left:** Goaltender Hannah Johnson (00) made nine saves to post her second consecutive clean sheet.



**Middle School Football** – Coach Tyler Gadlen's Cavaliers showed incredible resilience Tuesday night, bouncing back from the previous week's 57-6 loss to Martin by edging Milan on the road 14-12. The victory evened the gridgers' season record at 2-2, with their next game scheduled September 5 at Medina against South Gibson.



**Above:** George Randall (19), Evan King (71), Jayden Young (55), & Blake Johnson (72) walking to shake hands prior to game starting Tuesday night.



**Above:** Khalan Thomas (4) runs upfield for a gain of several yards.



**Above:** Rylan Redding (9) makes a great catch.



**Above:** Max Woods (12) running towards the end zone for a Cavalier touchdown.



**Below:** CCMS cheerleaders cheer the Cavaliers on to victory.