

MAKING A POINT LEADS TO POINTS; CAVS WIN AGAIN



Above: The Cavalier Crazies were out in full force in red, white, and blue outfits, ready to engage their theme of "Party in the U.S.A."

By Ron Barry

As a veteran football coach, Crockett County's Kevin Ward knows how to make a point.

Last week, after a convincing win over Ripley on the road, Ward lit into his team over a lack of composure and discipline toward the game's end. That message was apparently received loudly and clearly, as the Cavaliers were only penalized twice for five yards each in Friday night's home game with Lexington, and there were no incidents close to causing controversy.

But in the third quarter of that contest – with Crockett clinging to a 17-10 lead in a battle that was still anybody's game – star running back Caden "Deuce" Greenhill took a handoff to the right side, saw that there wasn't going to be any room for a gain, and casually just ran out of bounds. Ward, who was stationed about 20 yards upfield, immediately sent word down the sidelines to take the talented junior out of the lineup.

His point: If the Cavaliers were going to win this game, they needed to be tougher than that. And if it meant temporarily benching the guy who's been the offensive focus most of the young season, Ward was willing to take that risk. He made it clear that nobody on this team is going to receive preferential treatment.



Above: Kentravion Price (57) and Joseph Gould (71) lead the Cavaliers through the cheer squad sign and tunnel prior to the 37-10 win over Lexington.

Four plays later – with the message again clearly received – Greenhill scored from nine yards out on his first carry of the fourth quarter to give the hosts some breathing room on the scoreboard, and then broke a 52-yard touchdown gallop just five minutes later to cement the message that playing tougher in the second half was the difference as Crockett posted a 37-10 triumph.

"We just played so much tougher in the second half, especially at the line of scrimmage," Ward said after his 3-0 squad limited Lexington to a single first down and no more points in the final two periods. "That's a pretty good football team, well-coached, and a classy football team, but we pretty much stood them up in the last half."

Until that second half, the game was deadlocked 10-10 at the intermission after the teams traded field goals – a 29-yarder by Crockett's Avery Hurst and a 46-yarder by Lexington's Logan Lewis – and one touchdown each. The Cav score came on a 41-yard pass play from Grayson Lambert to Willie Walker, who bulled past the last defender with about 20 yards to go. The Tigers answered with a 75-yard scoring drive that featured their only significant gain of the night, a 43-yard scamper by Ross McDaniel. Quarterback Jakob Davis scored from three yards out.

Crockett quickly forced a punt on Lexington's first possession in the third quarter, and even though a Lewis punt rolled dead at the Cavalier 1-yard-line, the hosts needed just nine plays to travel 99 yards for the tiebreaker. Seven of those were carries by Greenhill, including gains of 12 and 13 yards, which set up the first try of the night for freshman Dakylan Woods, who rambled the final 53 to make it 17-10 after Hurst's extra point with 4:07 left.

On its next possession, the visiting Tigers went for a fourth-and-one from their own 39, but senior lineman Kevin Garduno stuffed Lexington's Nick Lee for no gain and the Cavs took over. It was on the very next play that Greenhill strolled nonchalantly out-of-bounds, and left the lineup as Woods came in again. After a Lambert to Carson Pruitt pass for 18 yards, Woods carried it three times down to the nine as the period ended.

Greenhill - now sufficiently educated that Ward prefer he'd run north-and-south as opposed to east-and-west - returned to the fray to start the final quarter, took a handoff from Lambert, and crashed over a tackler at the goal line to push the Crockett edge to two scores. Hurst's extra made it 24-10.

At that point, running out of time, Lexington's desire to avoid the forward pass had to be scrapped, and Davis tried only his second throw of the entire game. But, like his first one, Crockett's Antuan Hobson latched onto it at the Tiger 25 and returned this one all the way for a pick-six with 10:46 remaining in the contest. A two-point conversion play, following a low snap, failed, but the Cavs were now up 30-10.

The Cavs quickly forced another Lexington punt, which rolled dead at the Crockett 38. After a couple of five-yard runs, Greenhill decided to take the next one to the house, and raced 52 yards for his second score of the period. Hurst booted the extra to account for the final of 37-10.

The game was especially meaningful as it marked the first home game back for Cavalier assistant coach David Barker, who served as an honorary captain during the pre-game ceremony along with his wife Heather and son Roman. Surrounded by #LiveLikeReese signage and bracelets in memory of their daughter Reese, it was yet another heartwarming moment for the Crockett community which has rallied to support the family.

Greenhill finished the night with 123 yards in 20 carries and now has 460 yards rushing through the season's first three games. Lambert, making the most of Crockett's normally-limited pass calls, completed 8-of-15 for 184 yards, easily his season high. Hobson's two interceptions tied him with Demo Pickens for the team lead in that category.

Defensively, Crockett completely shut Lexington down in the final half, and didn't play poorly in the first outside of the one long run. Particularly noteworthy on defense were linebackers Jacob Knox and Preston Lambert, who were in on a variety of tackles, as were linemen Jordan Rainey, Garduno, Kentravion Price, and Zerafin Guardian.

"I'm very proud of what these guys accomplished tonight," Ward said after the game. "Lexington has a proud history of success, and anytime you can beat them you've done a good job, especially seeing the way our guys toughened up in the second half. Now we have to go 1-0 again next week."

Ward was referring to this Friday night's home game against Jackson South Side, which will come to Cavalier Stadium with a 2-1 record and fresh off two straight wins over same-city opponents, having defeated Jackson Central-Merry and Liberty. Game time will be 7:00 p.m.



Final Statistics

Rushes-Yards: CC - Deuce Greenhill 20-123, Dakylan Woods 6-68, Demo Pickens 2-8, Grayson Lambert 7-5, Ben Burgess 1-0, Gabe Dupree 1-(-1), **Team 37-203. LEX** - Ross McDaniel 14-81, Nick Lee 12-34, Jakob Davis 9-27, Ashton Hart 4-7, Adonnis Smith 1-3, **Team 40-152.**

Passing (Comp-Att-Yds-Int): CC - G. Lambert 8-15-184-0. **LEX** - Davis 0-2-0-2.

Receptions-Yards: CC - Willie Walker 3-72, Amarion Hobson 2-66, Demo Pickens 2-28, Carson Pruitt 1-18. **LEX** - None.

Interceptions: Antuan Hobson 2-31 (1 TD return).

Total Yards: CC 387, LEX 152.

First Downs: CC 11, LEX 5.

Fumbles-Lost: CC 0-0, LEX 1-0.

Penalties-Yards: CC 2-10, LEX 2-10.

Punts-Yards: CC Joseph Gould 2-71, **LEX** 5-175.

Season Statistics (3 Games; Record 3-0)

Rushes-Yards: CC - Deuce Greenhill 59-460, Gabe Dupree 18-152, Dakylan Woods 9-105, Carson Pruitt 3-28, Grayson Lambert 17-33, Demo Pickens 5-14, Ben Burgess 1-0, **Team 112-792. Opponents 114-483.**

Passing (Comp-Att-Yds-Int): CC - G. Lambert 18-31-326-0. **Opponents** 12-34-227-4.

Receptions-Yards: CC - Willie Walker 6-99, Amarion Hobson 3-76, Preston Lambert 2-40, Antuan Hobson 2-39, Demo Pickens 3-36, Carson Pruitt 2-36, **Team 18-326. Opponents 12-227.**

Interceptions: Demo Pickens 2-34, Antuan Hobson 2-31 (1 TD return).

Points (TDs-2PC-XP-FG-P): Greenhill 7-0-0-0-42, Antuan Hobson 2-1-0-0-14, Avery Hurst 0-0-0-11-1-14, Woods 2-0-0-0-0-12, Dupree 2-0-0-0-0-12, Preston Lambert 1-0-0-0-0-6, Grayson Lambert 1-0-0-0-0-6, Walker 1-0-0-0-0-6, Pruitt 1-0-0-0-0-6.

Total Yards: CC 1,118, Opponents 710.

First Downs: CC 36, Opponents 32.

Fumbles-Lost: CC 2-1, Opponents 11-5.

Penalties-Yards: CC 13-91, Opponents 16-107.

Punts-Yards: CC - Joseph Gould 6-224, **Opponents 9-168.**

Points Scored: CC 118, Opponents 46.

Left: With Head Coach Kevin Ward (left) watching in the background, honorary captains Roman, David, and Heather Barker join Cavalier leaders Kevin Garduno (74) and Joseph Gould (71) for the opening coin toss vs. Lexington. The family was surrounded by #LiveLikeReese signs and bracelets.



Above: Avery Hurst (85), kicking out of the hold by quarterback Grayson Lambert (1), puts Crockett on the scoreboard with his first varsity field goal, a 29-yarder.



Above: Crockett's Carson Pruitt (34) drags down Lexington quarterback Jakob Davis (13) as Kentravion Price (57) and Gabe Dupree (29) prepare to lend a hand.



Right: Antuan Hobson (2) dodges the tackle of Lexington quarterback Jakob Davis (13) to return this pass interception for a touchdown, escorted to the end zone by Jordan Rainey (70) and Preston Vernon (50).



Above: Freshman running back Dakylan Woods (32) gets ready to set sail on a 53-yard touchdown run behind the blocking of Kevin Garduno (74), Preston Vernon (50), Kentravion Price (57), Zerafin Guardian (76), and Carson Pruitt (34).

Right: The Crockett Marching Cavaliers put on a brand-new halftime show, featuring an array of colors and black-and-white optics.



Right: Cav quarterback Grayson Lambert (1) gets ready to take the snap while twin brother Preston Lambert (13) offers blocking protection as a tight end on this play.



Below: Linebacker Jacob Knox (42) and defensive back Demo Pickens (3) prepare to crash the line of scrimmage against Lexington.



Above: Crockett's Jordan Rainey (70) hammers Tiger running back Ross McDaniel (2) for a loss of yardage.



Below: Deuce Greenhill (0) plows over a Lexington defender at the goal line to score the first of his two fourth-quarter touchdowns.



Above: Willie Walker (6) leaves the final defender in the turf dust as he crosses the goal line on a 41-yard touchdown reception.



Left: Deuce Greenhill (0) cuts between ferocious blocks by Zerafin Guardian (76), Carson Pruitt (34), Preston Vernon (50, who flattened his defender), Kentravion Price (57), and Jordan Rainey (70) on his way to a long run.

