

RAINING KILLS INSIDE THE GYM: LADY CAVS ROLL PAST MILAN



Above: Deonna Cole (14) was all smiles after scoring a smash from the front row.

By Ron Barry

Some of the Crockett County sports calendar was rained out Tuesday night - the outside sports, that is.

Inside Emerson Memorial Gym, the only things raining were the number of kills the Crockett volleyball team laid on Milan and the amount of sheer joy with which the Lady Cavaliers play the sport.

Coach Bobby Rawson's squad improved to 15-5 on the season by steamrolling the Lady Dawgs 3-0 in straight sets that generally weren't close. Crockett showed solid resilience in bouncing back from a tough district defeat to Dyer County in its prior match.

Most evident in the Lady Cavs' victory - and reminiscent of the way they've played all season - is the pure joy displayed on their faces as they play. It's clear in the photos accompanying this piece that they enjoy the sport of volleyball and they enjoy playing it with each other, a testament to the team chemistry Rawson has constructed with the help of his assistant coaches Andrew Laman, Hope Owens, and Jeremiah Cavitt.



Above: Setter Bailey Ann Whitby (13) celebrates a victorious point with (from left) Joy Evans, Deonna Cole (14), Madi Collins, Kinleigh Lamb, and Sadie Hoover (2).

"Rawson, whose team is 4-1 in district play, continues to receive strong leadership from seniors Sarah Cherry, Joy Evans, Brooklyn Haynes, Lynden Cole, Bailey Ann Whitby, and Kinleigh Lamb. All are major parts of the Cavs' regular rotation.

It's all built around the theme "Together," and it's one Crockett hopes to build on when it faces some stiff competition for the rest of the week. The Lady Cavs travel to Jackson to battle talented TCA on Thursday and then travel to Tupelo, Mississippi on Saturday for a day-long tournament featuring top area teams.

Right: You can pretty much count on Brennan Morris (11) enjoying the competition, keeping her teammates enthusiastic.





Left: Senior Lynden Cole (10) goes low to dig this Milan blast and trigger a set-up to teammate Joy Evans (left).

Right: Senior Brooklyn Haynes plays much of each match with a broad smile on her face, one of several Lady Cavs who display joy while they compete.



Left: Nobody in the Lady Cav lineup lowers the boom on a kill opportunity like Joy Evans (25), here slamming one past a Milan defender as Bailey Ann Whitby (13) and Lily Riley (4) look on.

Right: Khaki Hall (20) readies for a Milan serve from a back row position.



Far Right: Lily Riley awaits a Milan serve from the center-back position.

Right: When out of the on-floor lineup in the rotation, Lynden Cole (10) is usually keeping anyone near her entertained. In this case it's Katherine West (3) and Kinleigh Lamb (5).



Below: Senior Bailey Ann Whitby (13) and sophomore Katherine West (3) go high to block a Milan shot and score a point as Crockett rolled to a 3-0 win.



Left: Senior Sarah Cherry (8) blasts a kill down the sideline as teammates Lynden Cole (10) and Bailey Ann Whitby (13) look on.

