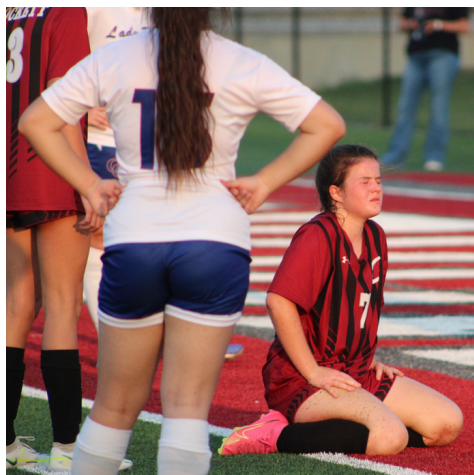


THURSDAY SPORTS RECAP

SEPTEMBER 7TH



Above: Rebecca Waddey (7) tries to catch her breath after taking a direct shot from a ball kicked into her chest near the Obion net.

By Ron Barry

Sometimes it's highly beneficial to have multi-sports athletes on your team.

Take, for instance, Crockett County's girls soccer team. The Lady Cavs scored their first goal because a basketball player poked in a rebound and their second when a cross-country runner beat everyone else to the ball on a clear-out kick. Those were the only two goals of the game as Crockett knocked off district rival Obion County Central 2-0 at Cavalier Stadium Thursday night, highlighting a full slate of sports action for CCSD squads.

GIRLS SOCCER – A scoreless first half, despite the fact that Crockett controlled the ball for almost the entire 40 minutes, had most observers nervous entering the final period. But Coach Stan Jamscek's club netted a pair of goals in the final 30 minutes to eke out the victory.

"We have trouble scoring sometimes," Jamscek laughed after the match. "Our defense has been pretty solid. Our offense gives us a lot of chances, but we don't always get the finish on those chances. We have to improve on that before we play teams like Westview (again), South Gibson, and Dyersburg. They will come at us much harder."

Thursday night, the 0-0 deadlock was finally broken when Braniya Green threaded her way through the Obion defense from the left side and booted a hard shot that rebounded off the Lady Rebel goalie back in front of the net. Speedy basketballer Charity Greenhill, much to her own relief, was right there to kick it back in.

"I honestly feel like I've been playing like trash the last two games," Greenhill said after the match. "But plays like that are why you never give up. If you keep getting after it, something good is finally going to happen."



Above: If opponents manage to get past Dani Rios, teammate Casey Thornton (3) is usually there to take the ball away.

About 20 minutes later, Obion appeared to be setting up a breakaway opportunity when Crockett defender Dani Rios – who roams the backfield like a baseball center fielder – stepped up and drilled a long clear-out right down the middle of the pitch. Senior Kristin Davis – a cross-country runner and member of the Lady Cavs state tournament track relay team – took off from the right wing, outraced everybody else to the ball, and drilled it past the goaltender to close the scoring at 2-0.

With Rios and senior Casey Thornton – another cross-country racer – making it nearly impossible for Obion to get a decent shot off, Crockett goaltender Hannah Johnson posted another clean sheet as the team improved to 5-1-1 on the season. After all, if you need goaltending done well, why not use another basketball player (which Johnson is)?

The Lady Cavs host Madison Academic in a 4:30 contest on Monday.



Above: Crockett defender Chayse Lewis (5) battles for control of the ball.



Above: Just 20 minutes after the first goal, Crockett's Kristin Lewis (9) is about to slap hands in celebration with Greenhill after scoring the second goal as Rebecca Waddey and Stephanie Joyner get in on the celebration.



Above: One of the reasons teams have trouble scoring against Crockett's soccer defense is that Dani Rios (19) rarely lets them get close to the net.



Left: Lady Cav goalkeeper Hannah Johnson outraces two Obion strikers to prevent a goal and post another clean sheet.

Right: Charity Greenhill finally broke a scoreless deadlock in the second half, punching this rebound past Obion's goalie as Ester Procopio (18) looks on..



CROSS-COUNTRY - With four of her usual runners playing soccer Thursday, Crockett cross-country coach Julie Nass could be excused if she wasn't feeling that optimistic heading to the Milan Invitational.

Using several of her "JV" racers instead to augment the remaining regulars, the Lady Cavs pulled off a third-place finish among a group of several solid teams at the Milan Ag Center. In the boys race that followed, several Crockett runners posted personal-best times, including top racer Angel Garcia, who broke the 18-minute barrier for the first time in his career. Crockett's girls finished third among the 11 full teams competing, trailing only local powerhouse Obion County Central and Huntingdon. The Lady Cavs placed ahead of Chester County, USJ, McKenzie, South Gibson, Madison Academic, Lexington, Henry County, and Brighton.

Top finisher for Crockett was sophomore Claire Evans (22:48.23), who was 10th among 114 total racers. Next in line for the Lady Cavs were Harmony Walker (31st), Leyla Silva (48th), Olivia Mann (49th), and Ashley Boone (54th). The next two runners, who pushed opponents' point totals higher and therefore significantly aided the team finish, were freshmen Leah Moore (94th) and Miley Silva (95th).

Obion's Olyvia Underwood (20:35.01) was the individual champion, over a minute ahead of teammate Klicey Campbell.

In the boys event, Camden Central claimed the team crown, led by top finishers Ridge Bruce (16:36.31) and Pete Douglas (16:40.04). Garcia (17:54.68), just a sophomore, was 12th for Crockett. Other Cav racers were Lane Foster (41st), freshman Jacob Wede (45th), and Leck Lucky (96th). Freshman runner Noah Mayfield was involved in Crockett's golf match Thursday. There were 186 total runners.

Next up is Tuesday's Huntingdon Invitational at 4:30 at the Kelley Soccer Complex.



Above: In the absence of several runners who had a soccer game Thursday, Ashley Boone stepped in to place in the fifth scoring position for Crockett as the girls cross-country team finished third in the Milan Invitational.

VOLLEYBALL - Coach Bobby Rawson's Lady Cavs rolled to a straight-set 3-0 triumph over Trinity Christian Academy on the road in Jackson, improving to 16-5 for the season.

Crockett has canceled its appearance for this weekend in the Tupelo (MS) Tournament and will travel to Memphis Monday to face Lausanne before returning home for a big district match with Dyersburg.



Above: Top setter Bailey Ann Whitby is a key reason that Crockett's volleyball team is now 16-5 after downing TCA Thursday night.



Above: Senior Lynden Cole (10) helps keep things stable in the back row for the Lady Cavs.

GOLF - Completely rebuilding a team after last year's group of seniors had furnished the starting lineup for the last three seasons, Coach Chris Eubanks is seeing some slow but steady progress with his exceptionally inexperienced and young Cavalier squad.

Thursday Crockett finished third in a quadrangular match with Jackson Christian School, Hardin County, and South Gibson, and Cav freshman Jack Shaver carded a 37 to finish just three shots behind the event medalist for the day. The match was played at the Humboldt Golf and Country Club.

Monday the Cavs will play at 1:00 at Humboldt again in the Hornet Classic before hosting a match Tuesday at 4:00 at Crockett Country Club with Dyer County and Jackson North Side.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL - Madison Stitts laced a two-run double to center field to cap a six-run rally in the bottom of the sixth inning as CCMS came off the deck to post an 11-10 thriller over South Gibson County.

The double was the fifth time Stitts reached base in five plate appearances in the drama-filled contest, which found the Hornets taking a 10-5 advantage into Crockett's last turn at bat. But Emmalynn Medlin led off with a double and Haley Leforgee followed with a single. After a fielder's choice, Medlin scored on a wild pitch and Nataly Amador drew a walk to load the bases.

Emilee Chandler, the eventual winning pitcher in relief, also drew a walk to force in a run before a fly out made it look grim for the Lady Cavs. But Fallon Beaird smacked a hard single to right, driving home two to cut the margin to 10-9. Stitts then hammered her double to win it, pushing Crockett's record to 8-2 for the season.

Stitts was 3-for-3 with two walks for the winners. Beaird also had three hits and a walk and joined Stitts and Medlin with two RBIs each in the contest. Medlin's two-run single in the bottom of the fourth cut into an 8-2 Hornet lead at the time.

CCMS hosts Milan Monday and Huntingdon Tuesday in its next outings.



Right: Crockett Middle School's softball team made a stunning last-inning comeback to edge South Gibson 11-10, capped by a two-run, walk-off double by Madison Stitts.