

TUESDAY SPORTS RECAP

SEPTEMBER 12 TH



Above: Crockett's comeback began when Brennan Morris (11), under the watchful eye of Coach Bobby Rawson, served the Lady Cavs to a 10-0 lead in Set 3.

By Ron Barry

LADY CAVS STUN DYERSBURG WITH FEROCIOUS COMEBACK

The calendar says it's September, but it sure looked like an Easter service was going on in Emerson Memorial Gymnasium Tuesday night at Crockett County.

Let's put it this way: There was definitely a resurrection in there.

The Lady Cavaliers volleyball team, down two sets to none to their talented district rival Dyersburg, somehow managed to find a way to escape impending doom and rallied for a 3-2 victory that will rank as a comeback for the ages in their collective memory banks.

The triumph highlighted a full day of sports activities throughout the Crockett school district. Here's a roundup...

VOLLEYBALL – The first time these two teams met in Dyersburg earlier this season, Coach Bobby Rawson's Lady Cavs rallied from a deficit to claim a 3-2 win, but it was nothing like the miracle they pulled out Tuesday night back in their home gym.

"It was like two entirely different matches," Rawson said after the thrilling contest. Indeed, few who witnessed the first two sets – won by the Lady Trojans 25-20 and 25-21 – suspected anything was going to be radically changed in the match's outcome.

And while Rawson admitted there were some strategical adjustments made by the coaching staff, the players themselves simply credited a special togetherness they have developed this season that provides the resolve and the perseverance to handle the occasional obstacle.



Above: Good things kept happening in Set 4.

"It's this group of players," said senior Brooklyn Haynes. "We pull for each other. If we make a mistake, we don't point fingers or make excuses. It's special."

Senior setter Bailey Ann Whitby echoed those sentiments.

"I'm not sure the team last year could have done something like this," she said. "There's just a drive we have this season that's different. We love playing together and I think it definitely shows."

Another senior – who noticeably cranked her power game up a notch over the final three sets – was focused on the determination it took to achieve the comeback.

"Once we got it going, there was just no way we were going to let that match slip away," said Sarah Cherry, who cranked kill after kill from effective sets by her two senior friends. As did another senior, Joy Evans. As did sophomores Katherine West and Deonna Cole.

But none of the kills would have been possible without tremendous effort from those usually stationed in the back row, and Haynes, Lynden Cole, Kinleigh Lamb, and Brennan Morris all provided accurate digs for Whitby to spread around to the power bombers.

One more factor stood out: lengthy service runs by Morris, who helped turn the match completely around by belting several aces in a 10-0 stretch that opened the pivotal third set.

"I don't really think about it that much when I'm serving," Morris said. "To me, every serve is exactly the same. I've put in the practice over several years, and I've done it thousands of times. The muscle memory is there, so I just run up to the line and let it fly."

Morris did it well enough to help give Crockett leads of 10-0 and 16-5 in that third set before the hosts finally claimed a 25-12 win, and it was clear the momentum was shifting.

"In the first two sets, we really didn't play that well," Rawson said. "But Dyersburg was also getting a lot of points on things like the ball hitting the top of the net and rolling over, or angled shots hitting just inside lines and corners. We just knew points like that can't be sustainable over a full match; they were getting all the breaks they could get, and it had to turn sooner or later. I just told our girls to be ready when that happened, because I felt if it became a one-on-one match again, we were better than Dyersburg."

Rawson's club was more than ready when that happened.

Crockett followed the dominating third set with an even more lopsided 25-9 triumph in Set 4, scoring the game's final seven points to win 25-9, setting up the deciding fifth set: the first team to 15 claims the match.

Getting off to a good service start again with Morris and Sadie Hoover doing the honors, the Lady Cavs jumped ahead 5-3. Then it was Whitby's turn at the helm, and she helped push the margin to 11-3, aided by a well-placed curved overhead by Lamb from the back middle to an open corner.

An ace by West moved the score to 12-5, and when Morris took her turn again, it led by slams by Cherry and Evans. The most interesting thing about Crockett's 15-9 fifth set was that Rawson used his basic rotation of numerous players - and they all delivered.

"It's always good to get a win, but when it's a comeback like this against a big rival, that makes it mean a little more," Rawson said after his squad has pushed its season record to 18-5 and its district mark to 5-1.

The next test is a road match against Westview Thursday evening in Martin.



Left: Deonna Cole (14) and Katherine West (right) also got into the act.



Right: Another slam by Evan (25) keeps the rally going.



Left: A Joy Evans (25) kill prompted another celebration as Bailey Ann Whitby's face shows even more determination.



Above: After capturing Set 3 25-12, Brennan Morris (11), Sarah Cherry (8), Brooklyn Haynes (1), Lynden Cole (10), and Bailey Ann Whitby (13) showed the momentum had shifted.

Right: Kinleigh Lamb (5) took this set from the back row and sliced a perfect winner into the right corner as Deonna Cole (14) looks on.



Left: Sarah Cherry blasts a kill as her power game was outstanding throughout the final three sets.



SOCCER – While Crockett's record fell to 5-3-1 with its 2-1 defeat at Westview Tuesday, the team played noticeably better than in its previous day's loss to Madison Academic. Kristin Lewis, who wasn't sure she'd even be able to play after suffering a bruised and bloody toe Monday when she and a Madison defender simultaneously tried to kick a ball in opposite directions early in the first half, scored the Lady Cavs' lone goal against Westview.

Coach Stan Jamscek's squad plays at powerful Dyersburg Monday.

CROSS-COUNTRY – Running again without its complement of soccer players, Crockett's girls posted their second straight third-place finish with an impressive race at the Huntingdon Invitational.

Sophomore Claire Evans placed sixth out of 118 total racers to lead the Lady Cavs, who trailed only Obion County Central and Camden Central among the 10 full teams who competed. Coach Julie Nass received a 31st-place finish from Harmony Walker and a 37th from Leyla Silva. Other scoring finishers were freshman Olivia Mann (46th) and junior Ashley Boone (55th). Freshmen Leah Moore (99th) and Miley Silva (105th) rounded out the lineup. Evans posted a time of 22:35.84. Obion's Olyvia Underwood was the individual race winner.

Crockett's boys, with Angel Garcia placing 11th out of the 186 total runners, finished seventh out of the 13 full teams who competed. Freshman Jacob Wede just missed cracking the 20-minute barrier for the 5K-run, placing a respectable 24th. Following him for Crockett were Lane Foster (45th), Noah Mayfield (67th), and Leck Lucky (87th).

The Cav teams will next race on September 21 at the Covington Invitational.



Above: Leyla Silva made a strong run to help the Lady Cav racers place third out of 10 full teams.



Above: Angel Garcia earned another Top 20 medal with an 11-th place posting in Huntingdon.



Above: Fallon Beaird went 4-for-4 to pace a 15-hit attack in the CCMS win.

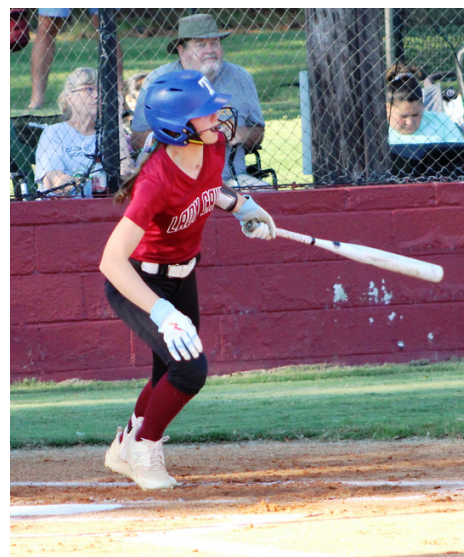
MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL – Wesley Thornton lined a single to center to score Ella Hayes and cap a three-run rally in the bottom of the seventh as CCMS edged Huntingdon 8-7 in another thriller.

Thornton's game-winning RBI was her third of the contest as Coach Duke Kail's squad scored its second late comeback win in its last three games, extending the team's winning streak to seven. Huntingdon had a 5-2 lead in the bottom of the sixth and was an out away from claiming victory, but Thornton delivered a two-run triple to make it 5-4 and then scored on a single by Fallon Beaird to send the game to extra innings.

Huntingdon scored twice in the top of the seventh, but Crockett rallied again in the bottom. With Madison Stitts on second as the extra-inning ghost runner, Macie Teel drew a walk and Emmalynn Medlin singled to load the bases. After a lineout, Hayes singled to right to score Stitts. Following a fielder's choice out at the plate, the Lady Fillies were again within an out of a victory, but Addie Hoover was hit by a pitch to force in the tying run before Thornton delivered her game-winner.

Beaird went 4-for-4 to pace Crockett's 15-hit attack. Stitts had three hits and Thornton drove in three runs in support. Medlin went the distance to record the pitching triumph as CCMS improved their season record to 10-2.

The Lady Cavs host Gibson County Monday in their next game.



Above: Wesley Thornton drove in three big runs to lead CCMS to its seventh straight victory.