

# CAV GRIDDER BLAST FAYETTE-WARE



**Above:** Junior running back Deuce Greenhill (0) returns to the bench area after scoring his third touchdown of the game and 22nd of the season in Friday night's 55-6 win over Fayette-Ware.



**Above:** Crockett's defense yielded virtually nothing to Fayette-Ware, holding the Wildcats to 104 total yards. Lining up for this play are linemen Kentravion Price (57) and Preston Vernon (50), linebackers Preston Lambert (13), Jacob Knox (42), and Dakylan Woods (32), and safety Amarian Hobson (4).

## By Ron Barry

For almost the entire first half Friday night, Fayette-Ware's band was playing "Ring My Bell" as an apparent constant reminder of what Crockett County was doing to its football team. When the 55-6 beatdown had mercifully ended after the combatants had agreed to play eight-minute quarters with a running clock for the second half, Coach Kevin Ward and his Cavaliers were already looking toward the beginning of the 2023 TSSAA playoffs, which began this week.

"We have proven that we're as good as any 4-A team from this half of the state," Ward said. "Somebody has to come out of the bracket from West Tennessee – so why not us?"

Crockett's victory over Fayette-Ware gave the Cavaliers a 2-2 Region 7-4A record and the third seed from that group, which means the playoff road begins at Millington (8-2), the second seed from Region 8-4A. The Trojans took that slot when they lost to Memphis Melrose 45-10 Friday.

Millington's only other defeat this season came in Week 2 to 5-A power Munford 42-14. The only common foe Crockett and the Trojans have is Fayette-Ware. Millington beat it 40-0, but the Wildcats are so hapless it's hard to use them as a measuring stick for anything short of an accident waiting to happen.

Ward's club took nothing for granted early on, however, racking up three quick first-quarter touchdowns – all by running back Deuce Greenhill, who now has 22 for the season – and needing only 10 plays to do it. Greenhill, who closed his regular season with 1,260 yards on just 167 carries (a 7.5 yards-per-rush average), scored on runs of 47, 23, and 22 yards before exiting the offense for the remainder of the contest.

When the second period began with sophomore Demo Pickens returning a Fayette-Ware punt 35 yards for another tally, the Cavs led 27-0 and immediately got the ball back when freshman Dakylan Woods recovered a "pooch" kickoff by Avery Hurst that settled in nicely between Wildcat returners.

At that point, Ward turned running back duties over to Gabe Dupree, and he hasn't been tackled yet. He only touched the ball twice on snaps, and took both to the house from 31 and eight yards out. After the second one, which was set up by a Preston Lambert sack of Wildcat quarterback Tony Washington for a nine-yard loss, Crockett led 41-0 barely midway through the second quarter.

Following another Fayette-Ware punt, again forced by a Lambert tackle on a pass reception for a five-yard loss, Pickens took a shot at running back and promptly raced 51 yards for another touchdown on his first carry. If you're keeping track, that's 10 touches by running backs and six scores (not even counting the punt return by Pickens).

With kicker Avery Hurst converting every conversion that he booted (the Cavs faked one of them and threw an incomplete pass), Crockett led 48-0 at the half and the Wildcat band shifted to its halftime assortment of songs. Their "bell" had been rung enough.

The third and fourth quarters zoomed by as Ward substituted liberally after Dupree started the proceedings by intercepting a Washington pass and returning it 20 yards to the Fayette-Ware 10. Landon Wicker threw an eight-yard pass to Dylan Pigue – his first catch of the year – and then, one play later, handed it off to the senior to sweep it into the end zone from a yard out. Pigue was immediately mobbed by his excited teammates, and Hurst quickly pushed the advantage to 55-0 with his extra point.

Fayette-Ware finally managed some Senior Night excitement of its own when running back Martavious Cheairs broke a 61-yard run – accounting for almost 60% of the Wildcats' offense for the game – against Cav reserves, taking the ball down to the three. The hosts then tried to let its massive lineman Eric Neal score on a handoff, when a Crockett gang tackle spoiled it by stacking him up at the one. The defense was geared to stop Neal again on the next play, but Washington fumbled the snap and had to improvise, but found himself all alone to the left side as the Crockett defense was swarming toward Neal again.

Washington's touchdown made it 55-6, and the Wildcats failed on a two-point conversion run, although their press box personnel put it up on the scoreboard as good, which is why some area news outlets have been reporting the final as 55-8.

Even with all the personnel shifting, Crockett's defense held Fayette-Ware to 101 yards rushing and just three passing. Offensively, in addition to Pigue's first touchdown, receivers Sam Kalinisan and Leland Dotson recorded their initial catches of the season and freshman quarterback Ben Burgess was two-for-two for 11 yards passing. Starting quarterback Grayson Lambert hit on three of his five throws for 47 yards.

With the playoffs now squarely in his sights, Ward challenged his team to believe that it is truly the best 4-A squad coming out of its half of the bracket.



"There's no reason for us to think that we can't play with anybody that's still playing this week," he said. Those teams include Haywood, Dyer County, and Obion County, which also face Region 8-4A opponents this Friday night. Dyer will host Craigmont, Haywood will entertain Kirby (bring your earplugs, Memphians), and Obion will travel to Melrose.

Other area teams still alive in the 4-A bracket are Hardin County, Jackson North Side, South Gibson, and Lexington. If Crockett wins at Millington, it will face the Haywood-Kirby victor the following week.

#### Final Statistics

**Rushes-Yards: CC** - Deuce Greenhill 7-103, Demo Pickens 1-51, Gabe Dupree 2-39, Grayson Lambert 2-15, Ben Burgess 1-4, Demarrius Pickens 3-3, Dylan Pigue 1-1, **Team 17-216. FW** - Martavious Cheairs 8-83, Tony Washington 10-14, Quinton Jones 1-2, Eric Neal 1-2, Nakylan Hall 1-0, **Team 21-101.**

**Passing (Comp-Att-Yds-Int): CC** - G. Lambert 3-5-47-0, Burgess 2-2-11-0, Landon Wicker 1-1-8-0, **Team 6-8-66-0. FW** - Washington 4-9-3-1, **Team 4-9-3-1.**

**Receptions-Yards: CC** - Demo Pickens 2-26, Antuna Hobson 1-21, Pigue 1-8, Sam Kalinisan 1-6, Leland Dotson 1-5. **FW** - Kylan Holmes 2-8, Cheairs 1-0, Hall 1-(-5).

**Interceptions: CC** - Dupree 1-20. **FW** - None.

**Total Yards: CC 282, FW 104.**

**First Downs: CC 5, FW 4.**

**Fumbles-Lost: CC 0-0, FW 3-1.**

**Penalties-Yards: CC 3-25, FW 1-2.**

**Punts-Yards: CC 0-0, FW 4-110.**

#### Season Statistics (10 Games; Record 6-4; Region 2-2)

**Rushes-Yards: CC** - Deuce Greenhill 167-1,260, Dakylan Woods 39-254, Gabe Dupree 30-220, Grayson Lambert 79-210, Demo Pickens 20-162, Carson Pruitt 5-31, Ben Burgess 5-3, Demarrius Pickens 3-3, Dylan Pigue 1-1, **Team 349-2,267. Opponents 373-2,210.**

**Passing (Comp-Att-Yds-Int): CC** - G. Lambert 53-106-941-3, Ben Burgess 3-4-11-0, Landon Wicker 1-1-8-0, **Team 57-111-960-3. Opponents 71-132-977-11.**

**Receptions-Yards: CC** - Deuce Greenhill 8-215, Antuan Hobson 13-202, Amarion Hobson 5-153, Willie Walker 10-137, Preston Lambert 5-102, Demo Pickens 10-96, Carson Pruitt 3-36, Dylan Pigue 1-8, Sam Kalinisan 1-6, Leland Dotson 1-5, **Team 57-960. Opponents 71-977.**

**Interceptions: CC** - Demo Pickens 4-64, Antuan Hobson 3-64 (1 TD return), Gabe Dupree 2-33, Willie Walker 1-24, Dakylan Woods 1-0, **Team 11-185. Opponents 3-45.**

**Points (TDs-2PC-XP-FG-P):** Greenhill 22-0-0-0-132, Avery Hurst 0-0-35-2-41, Woods 6-1-0-0-38, Avery Hurst 0-0-28-2-34, Dupree 4-0-0-0-24, Demo Pickens 4-0-0-0-24, Antuan Hobson 3-1-0-0-20, Preston Lambert 2-1-0-0-14, Walker 2-0-0-0-12, Grayson Lambert 1-0-0-0-6, Pruitt 1-0-0-0-6, Amarion Hobson 1-0-0-0-6, Pigue 1-0-0-0-6.

**Total Yards: CC 3,074, Opponents 3,071.**

**First Downs: CC 109, Opponents 113.**

**Fumbles-Lost: CC 21-7, Opponents 25-12.**

**Penalties-Yards: CC 35-253, Opponents 62-504.**

**Punts-Yards-Avg: CC** - Joseph Gould 20-799-40.0, **Opponents 24-667-27.8.**

**Points Scored: CC 329, Opponents 209.**



**Top Right:** Preston Lambert (13) throws Wildcat quarterback Tony Washington for a nine-yard loss on this second-quarter sack.

**Top Left:** Senior Sam Kalinisan (86) hauls in this pass near the sideline for his first reception as Crockett wrapped up its 55-6 triumph.

**Left:** Crockett quarterback Grayson Lambert (1) slides behind blocks from Ethan Allen (55), Kevin Garduno (74), Preston Vernon (50), and Jordan Rainey (70) to pick up a Cav first down.



**Above:** These three are ready for the playoffs: Kentravon Price (57), center Joseph Gould (71), and Preston Vernon (50).



**Above:** The Cavalier cheerleaders - who made some news of their own by placing fourth in a Memphis competition Saturday to earn a berth in the nationals - posted a rather prophetic sign before Friday's game.



**Left:** Demo Pickens (3) crashes into the end zone to complete a 35-yard punt return for a score, with a late escort from his brother Demarrius Pickens (23) and Dakylan Woods (32).





**Above:** Gabe Dupree (29) is off to the races for 31 yards and a touchdown early in the second quarter for the Cavaliers...

**Far Right:** Senior Dylon Pigue (21) eludes Fayette-Ware defenders on a sweep and follows blocks by Demarrius Pickens (23), Karsen Burgess (15), and Noah Fitzhugh (9) to score his first career touchdown.



**Above:** Crockett's Luke Carter (19) hammers Wildcat receiver Kylan Holmes after a quick pass reception in the opening period.



**Above:** ... And then took this handoff from Grayson Lambert (1) through another huge hole to score again later from eight yards out.



**Above:** Lots of gang tackling took place defensively, as shown here when Jordan Rainey (70), Dakylan Woods (32), Gabe Dupree (29), Jacob Knox (42), and Kentravion Price (57) make the going rough.

**Right:** Pigue (21) is congratulated by teammates Carson Bridger (79), Colton Mayo (52), Nolen Turner (54), Sam Kalinisan (86), and Landon Wicker (17) following his score.



**Above:** Sophomore Demo Pickens (3) waits on this pass to arrive from quarterback Grayson Lambert (1), which he then turned into a 16-yard gain for the Cavaliers.