

# LADY CAV RACERS EARN STATE BERTH AFTER RUNNER-UP REGION FINISH



**Above:** The Regional Runner-Up award is presented to Crockett's seniors (from left) Kristin Lewis, Leyla Silva, and Casey Thornton.



**Above:** Headed to the State! (Sitting:) Kristin Lewis, Leyla Silva, and Casey Thornton. (Standing:) Assistant coach Charles Evans, Leah Moore, Olivia Mann, Miley Silva, Claire Evans, Ashley Boone, Harmony Walker, Avery Thornton, and Coach Julie Nass.

## By Ron Barry

When the Obion County Central Lady Rebels are running in a cross-country meet, it's pretty much a given that every other team is gunning for second place.

But when the meet is the Region 7 A-AA race, placing second gets you into the TSSAA State event. So Crockett County's girls decided they might as well take it.

And take it they did Tuesday at Martin, when Claire Evans posted a Top 10 finish and the rest of the squad bunched themselves between places 21 and 51, good enough to place second to Obion in the regional and claim a berth in next week's State Championships in Hendersonville.

The five scoring racers - Evans (8th), Avery Thornton (21st), Casey Thornton (28th), Harmony Walker (37th), and Leyla Silva (42nd) - kept Crockett's team point total low enough to place second, while the remaining two Lady Cavs, Olivia Mann (46th) and Kristin Lewis (51st) helped push their opponents' team scores higher, helping Coach Julie Nass guide her squad back to Hendersonville again.

"We definitely had a strategy for this race," Nass said after the event. "We look at results from other meets and we see which teams place near the top. We familiarize ourselves with what color jerseys those teams are wearing, and when the race begins, our girls have one objective: get in front of anybody in one of those jerseys whenever you can."

It has been Crockett's ability to finish in a rather tight grouping that has led to their success this season, and the Lady Cavs kept that facet of their racing intact Tuesday. With Evans chasing the race leaders, and Avery Thornton staying about a minute behind her, Casey Thornton and Walker ran much of the race side-by-side with each other and Silva, Mann, and Lewis kept each other in view just behind them.

Obion claimed three of the top five spots: Olyvia Underwood won the event with a time of 20:33.85, Klicey Campbell (21:18.59) was fourth, and Emery Lee (21:23.19) was fifth. Evans finished eighth overall at 22:17.09, continuing an impressive streak of medalist (Top 20) performances.

The Lady Rebels scored 32 total points to win the team title, followed by Crockett (98), Lexington (126), and Camden Central (128). Those are the squads that will represent Region 7 at the State next week, along with individual runners Halle Trevathan (2nd) and Alaina Uselton (3rd) of Westview, Brenley Little (6th) of Greenfield, and Ashlin Hardin (9th) of Bradford.

The Lady Cavs ran this same course at the Martin Soccer Complex last week in the Martin Invitational and placed second to Obion then as well. All but Mann ran slightly better last week; Mann set a new PR in the regional, shaving 19 seconds off her previous best time.

Crockett County finished 21st out of 30 total teams in the State meet last season (Obion was 9th). Nass, who believes her team is stronger this time around, is shooting for a higher achievement.

"I'd like to see us be able to climb into the Top 15," she said. "I think we're better than we were last year at this time, plus the experience some of them received should help. But it's always good to qualify to go, regardless of anything else."

There were 234 total runners in last year's State race. Senior Alyssa Roy was Crockett's top finisher in 85th, and Evans - then only a freshman - was 91st. Next week's meet will be on Friday afternoon.

In the boys' regional, Crockett - an extremely young team this year - placed eighth out of the 11 full teams competing. Camden won the team title with 53 points, and will be joined at the State by Chester County (68), Madison Academic (77), and Lexington (93). Individual racers going to the State are Jonathan Lewis (2nd) of South Gibson, Shawn Simpson (5th) of Huntingdon, Julius Brown (8th) of Adamsville, Jacob Casteel (9th) of Hardin County, and Jack Mantooth (10th) of Westview.

Camden's Ridge Bruce won the boys' event with a time of 16:08.98, some 24 seconds ahead of Lewis. Camden's Pete Douglas was third and Lexington's Adam Zukowski fourth. Sophomore Angel Garcia posted the Cavaliers' best time of 18:25.03, good for 26th place. He was followed by freshman Jacob Wede (39th), Lane Foster (49th), Aidan Klonowski (69th), freshman Noah Mayfield (77th), and Leck Lucky (87th) out of 107 total racers.

**Girls Team Results:** 1. Obion County Central 32; **2. Crockett County 98**; 3. Lexington 126; 4. Camden Central 128; 5. Madison Academic 138; 6. Chester County 142; 7. South Gibson 143; 8. Huntingdon 154; 9. Hardin County 200; 10. McKenzie 204.

**Girls Individuals:** 1. Olyvia Underwood, Obion; 2. Halle Trevathan, Westview; 3. Alaina Uselton, Westview; 4. Klicey Campbell, Obion; 5. Emeri Lee, Obion; 6. Brenley Little, Greenfield; 7. Bella Lamb, Chester County; **8. Claire Evans, Crockett County;** 9. Ashlin Hardin, Bradford; 10. Brooklyn Trospen, Lexington; **21. Avery Thornton, Crockett;** **28. Casey Thornton, Crockett;** **37. Harmony Walker, Crockett;** **42. Leyla Silva, Crockett;** **46. Olivia Mann, Crockett;** **51. Kristin Lewis, Crockett.** Total racers: 95.

**Boys Team Results:** 1. Camden 53; 2. Chester County 68; 3. Madison Academic 77; 4. Lexington 93; 5. Huntingdon 151; 6. Hardin County 163; 7. South Gibson 178; **8. Crockett County 204;** 9. Bradford 208; 10. Obion 252; 11. McNairy Central 344.

**Boys Individuals:** 1. Ridge Bruce, Camden; 2. Jonathan Lewis, South Gibson; 3. Pete Douglas, Camden; 4. Adam Zukowski, Lexington; 5. Shawn Simpson, Huntingdon; 6. Zach Bassham, Lexington; 7. Kaden Moseley, Madison; 8. Julius Brown, Adamsville; 9. Jacob Casteel, Hardin County; 10. Jack Mantooth, Westview; **26. Angel Garcia, Crockett;** **39. Jacob Wede, Crockett;** **49. Lane Foster, Crockett;** **69. Aidan Klonowski, Crockett;** **77. Noah Mayfield, Crockett;** **87. Leck Lucky, Crockett.** Total racers: 107.

**Right:** Three jersey backs with "C"s illustrates the Crockett strategy over the final mile: stay together.

**Below:** Harmony Walker and Casey Thornton ran side-by-side for much of the race, trying to keep the Lady Cavaliers in a fairly tight grouping.



**Above:** Claire Evans steps forth to receive her 8th-place medal.

**Left:** Freshman Avery Thornton, who just missed a medal by placing 21st, leads a large pack of racers down the backside of Westview's campus.

**Below:** The team is excited when the official second-place announcement is made - they're going to the State!

**Above:** Crockett sophomore Claire Evans approaches the one-mile mark alongside a Union City runner who would soon fall behind the eventual 8th-place finisher.



**Left:** In the boys race, the top Crockett finisher was Angel Garcia, who placed 26th.



**Right:** A bright light all season as a freshman, here Crockett's Jacob Wede (left) tries to outpace a Westview racer.

