

NASS OPTIMISTIC AS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAMS PREP FOR REGIONAL



Above: It makes a big difference in the Crockett girls lineup when the Thornton sisters are there. Freshman Avery (above) had a huge personal best at Martin this week...



Above: ...and senior Casey also had her best time after closing out the soccer season.

By Ron Barry

When your team has just finished second to perennial powerhouse Obion County Central in an invitational meet for the second consecutive week – and the regional meet is about to be run on the same course that you did it – there’s every reason for Crockett County cross-country coach Julie Nass to be optimistic.

Nass concedes that Obion, which wins virtually every meet it enters and especially so in West Tennessee, is the title favorite for next Tuesday’s Region 7-AA meet in Martin. But with her full girls’ lineup now available after the close of the fall soccer season, she sees no reason for her team’s recent successes to cease.

This past Tuesday at the Martin Soccer Complex, the Lady Cavaliers placed second to Obion among the 12 full teams competing in the 5,000-meter run and every runner whose placement counted in the point standings recorded a personal-best time for the season. That included the Thornton sisters – freshman Avery and senior Casey – who also play soccer and had to miss several of Crockett’s races.

“We have had success even when the soccer players have been missing,” Nass said earlier this season. “Our other runners really stepped up, and we even received some third-place trophies. But we’re definitely a stronger lineup when they’re here.”

After the Martin meet, Nass noted the difference they can make.

Out of 123 total runners, sophomore Claire Evans placed eighth, Avery Thornton 16th, Casey Thornton 28th, Harmony Walker 34th, Leyla Silva 37th, Kristin Lewis 40th, Olivia Mann 50th, Ashley Boone 73rd, Ester Procopio 75th, Leah Moore 79th, and Miley Silva 106th. The top five runners for a team in each meet count for points, while the next two can help push other teams’ point totals higher – and in cross-country, a lower point total is better.

In the team totals, Crockett had 84 points, well behind Obion’s 30 but also well ahead of third-place Camden Central’s 118. Huntingdon was fourth (158), South Gibson fifth (160), Madison Academic sixth (187), Chester County seventh (191), Covington eighth (198), Brighton ninth (213), and Lexington tenth (222). McKenzie and Henry County rounded out the team finishes.

“It looks like we’ve got the kids peaking at the right time heading into the Region Championships next week,” Nass said. “We trained really hard during fall break and it’s really paid off.” Nass noted that six of her freshmen runners, included boys’ team members Jacob Wede and Noah Mayfield, posted “huge” personal records at the Martin race.

On the boys’ side at Martin, 169 total runners competed, and Angel Garcia was Crockett’s top finisher in 25th place. Wede, who shaved almost 50 seconds off his personal-best time, was 38th, followed by Lane Foster (60th), Aidan Klonowski (65th), Mayfield (68th, and dropping his PR by more than a minute), and Leck Lucky (114th). The Cavs placed seventh out of the 15 full teams competing.

In the regional meet October 24, the top four teams and the next five best individual times qualify for the State Championships in Hendersonville.



Top: On the boys side, Jacob Wede (above) ran a personal record at Martin...

Above: ...as did freshman classmate Noah Mayfield, who was more than a minute lower than his previous best.