

# CCMS SOFTBALL LINEUP IS A MURDERERS' ROW



**Above:** Crockett shortstop Wesley Thornton slams a shot to the left center field fence in the final inning of the 12-2 romp over West Carroll.



**Above:** First baseman Addie Hoover hammers this blast to deep left field for one of her two hits against West Carroll.

## By Ron Barry

When you think of great offenses in baseball, the lineup of the 1927 New York Yankees - with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig at the heart of it - is often called the gold standard. Some would say, right now, the 2023 Atlanta Braves may give them a run for their money.

But what about softball? The current champion Oklahoma Sooners?

Okay, we know they're still young - but how about the 2023 Crockett County Middle School Lady Cavaliers?

Coach Duke Kail's girls posted their 13th consecutive victory Thursday with a 12-2 mercy-rule thumping of West Carroll, completing their regular season with a 16-2 mark. That's the record they'll take into Saturday's start of the district tournament. But how they got there - well, as Harry Caray used to say, "Holy cow!"

Crockett's first five hitters in its batting order - Wesley Thornton, Fallon Beaird, Madison Stitts, Macie Teel, and Emmalynn Medlin - have a combined batting average of .588! That's NOT a typo. Medlin, who doubles as the usual number one pitcher, is the "slacker" in the bunch; she's "only" hitting .535, but leads the squad in runs batted in with 27.

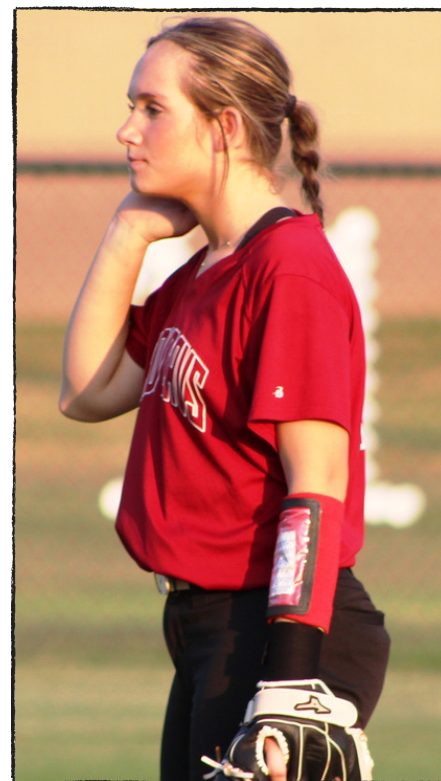
Teel, who usually hits cleanup, is batting .585. Move up to the third spot, and Stitts is at .600. Jump up to the second spot, and Fallon Beaird matches her .600 and also leads the team in runs scored with 28.

That takes us to the leadoff position, where Thornton - who barrels virtually every pitch she swings at - is 29-for-47, good for a .617 mark. Her 25 RBIs are just behind Medlin.

Survive those five as an opposing pitcher, and you're still not going to be out of the woods. Several other Lady Cavs can hurt you from the rest of the lineup, like first baseman Addie Hoover, or outfielder Ella Hayes, or... honestly, you can pretty much just keep listing names.

Against West Carroll Thursday, Thornton went 4-for-4 and drove in two runs. Hayes was 3-for-3 and scored twice. Stitts also had three hits and scored twice, Beaird and Hoover each added two safeties, and Teel and Mae Parker both recorded RBIs.

That's the recipe for 13 straight wins. Medlin (two hitless, scoreless innings) and Maddie Haynes split the pitching duties Thursday. Emilee Chandler has been excellent as a hurler as well. It's tournament time now - here's hoping they all continue to do what they do best.



**Above:** Lady Cav pitching has been so good lately, sometimes the bored outfielders need to keep their heads propped up, as Ella Hayes (who went 3-for-3 at the plate) is doing here.

**Below:** Madison Stitts watches her long fly ball to left field drop for a triple, one of her three safeties in Thursday's game.



**Above:** Two pitchers combined to do the work Thursday. Maddie Haynes (left) pitched the final two frames after two hitless innings tossed by Emmalynn Medlin (right), who then moved to third base.



**Above:** Second baseman Mae Parker scored two runs, drove in another with a base hit, and also drew a walk in the 12-2 win.

**Left:** Fallon Beard dashes for first while watching her second hit of the game sail into the outfield against West Carroll.