

# VB TEAM WINS 14TH STRAIGHT; 2 FRESHMEN GOLFERS HEADED FOR REGIONALS



**Above:** Rachel Crossnoe winds up to rip a drive in Monday's district tournament. Crossnoe, Crockett's lone girl member, qualified for next week's regional. She's also just a freshman.

## By Ron Barry

Crockett County's volleyball team - rocking and rolling right now - will find out tonight if it can keep the beat going. And outside of the gymnasium, two freshmen golfers have claimed berths in next week's regional tournament in Clarksville, capping a season filled with improvement. Those stories highlight the Monday recap of Homecoming Week for Cavalier sports.

**Volleyball** - Coach Bobby Rawson's squad captured their 14th consecutive victory Monday night with a straight-set 3-0 win over Covington. Crockett won the sets 25-19, 25-14, and 25-20 behind a strong night of kills by Deonna Cole in particular and generally consistent play all over the court.

It was Senior Night for the Lady Cavaliers, and all six - Sarah Cherry, Bailey Ann Whitby, Brooklyn Haynes, Kinleigh Lamb, Lynden Cole, and Joy Evans - performed admirably against the Lady Chargers.

Tonight brings the huge district rematch with defending champion Dyer County, the last team to hand Crockett a match defeat. In the first battle, the Lady Cavs became the first club to even take a set off the Lady Choctaws. Crockett will enter tonight's duel with a sparkling 28-5 record.

**Golf** - New coach Chris Eubanks began this season from absolute scratch.

In the previous two years, the boys program had the same five starters, and they were all seniors in 2022. So this year's squad had no one with any match experience at all returning.



**Above:** These six Crockett seniors were honored prior to Monday night's 3-0 win over Covington. From left are Bailey Ann Whitby (13), Kinleigh Lamb (5), Sarah Cherry (8), Brooklyn Haynes (1), Lynden Cole (10), and Joy Evans (25).

Add the fact that there was no girls team in 2022, and Eubanks faced a daunting task, knowing he was likely to take his lumps throughout the season while his very young boys team - and his one girl - faced high school competition for the first time.

The lumps definitely came during the regular season, but when Monday's district tournament concluded at Humboldt Country Club, two Crockett freshmen - Jack Shaver and Rachel Crossnoe - had earned berths in next week's regionals in Clarksville.

In the boys event, South Gibson's Lane Carr earned medalist honors with a 71. Four other players - Crockett's Shaver among them - carded rounds of 79, necessitating a playoff to earn regional positions. Shaver birdied the first playoff hole to earn the second-place medal for the district. Lexington's Knox Franklin claimed third place.

Crossnoe, who is also a cheerleader for Crockett County, earned one of the regional spots in the girls event by finishing among the top four players who weren't on regional qualifying teams.



**Above:** Kinleigh Lamb returns a ball back over her head to keep a rally going against Covington.



**Right:** The ultimate 2023 Crockett volleyball picture: Joy Evans (25) booming a kill over the Covington front line with the Cavalier logo shining on the video board.

**Below:** Bailey Ann Whitby (13) and Lynden Cole (10) ham it up with Katherine West (3) and Sarah Cherry (right).



**Above** Sophomore Deonna Cole (on floor) makes a sprawling dig to keep this point alive in the direction of Madi Collins (6) as teammates Brooklyn Haynes (1), Kinleigh Lamb (5), and Joy Evans (25) work for position.



**Above:** Brennan Morris races forward to save a ball as Brooklyn Haynes (1), Lily Riley (4), Katherine West (3), Deonna Cole (14), and Bailey Ann Whitby (13) get ready to help if needed.



**Left:** Freshman Jack Shaver won a playoff to claim second place in the district tournament Monday at Humboldt and qualify for next week's regionals.

**Below:** Lynden Cole (10) gets the circle dance after serving an ace.



**Above:** After Joy Evans (25) hits a smash, it's time for a "Kill Party." Joining in are Haynes (1), Lamb (5), Whitby (13), Cole (14), and Keeton Holyfield (16).



**Right:** West (3) and Whitby (13) combine to stuff this Covington shot for a big point in Set 1.

