

VOLLEYBALL TEAM (29-6) READIES FOR DISTRICT TOURNAMENT



Above: Crockett senior Sarah Cherry (8) rips a winner through the hands of a Ripley blocker in the first set of Wednesday night's match.



Above: Kylee Garrett (22) and Joy Evans (25) leap high for the double block against a Lady Tiger shot.

By Ron Barry

The regular season has ended. Now it's harvest time.

Crockett County's volleyball team is hoping to reap what it has sown as the District 13-AA tournament begins Monday night at Dyer County in Newbern. The Lady Cavaliers, as the second seed, do not actually begin play until Tuesday night at 7:00, facing the winner of Monday night's South Gibson vs. Dyersburg matchup.

Coach Bobby Rawson's squad bounced back from a straight-set defeat at Dyer County on Tuesday night by cruising (for the most part) past visiting Ripley 3-0 in Wednesday evening's regular season finale. Crockett won 15 of its last 16 matches to post a 29-6 record heading into post-season play.

Wednesday's meeting with Ripley gave Rawson plenty of opportunities to spread out playing time throughout his roster, and while there were brief hiccups early in Set 2 and relatively late in Set 3, the outcome of the match was never in jeopardy. Every time the Lady Tigers put a rally together to close the margin, Crockett responded with a sufficient run of its own.

Dyer County, as the number one seed in District 13-AA, will host the tournament and also have a Monday night bye. The Lady Choctaws will play Tuesday night against the winner of Monday's Obion County Central vs. Westview duel. Dyer County was the only team in the district to defeat Crockett.

Only two teams from each district advance to the Region 7-AA tournament, so Tuesday night's games are must-win situations for all the teams involved. Thursday night's championship game winner will then play the District 14-AA runner-up in the first round of the regional; the championship game loser will face the District 14 title winner in the opening round.



Above: Coach Bobby Rawson laughs with senior hitter Joy Evans (25) after her latest kill shot.

Left: Lily Riley prepares to return a serve from a Ripley player.



Right: In a team huddle, Deonna Cole (middle) may be whispering to Keeton Holyfield (right), "Don't look now, but I just stuck my gum in Khaki Hail's (20) hair!"



Below: After an out-of-character ferocious kill shot by Katherine West (3), her teammates' reactions are priceless: (from left) Brennan Morris (11), Bailey Ann Whitby (back to camera), and Deonna Cole (14).



Above Deonna Cole (14) belts this kill shot in front of teammate Kinleigh Lamb and line judge Brad Laman, who's had a drink named after him at Stir Crockett.



Above: It wouldn't be a Crockett match without a moment between Haynes (left) and Lynden Cole (right). "You made me do it!" seems to be the message, but with these two, you never know.



Left: Sadie Hoover (2) and Keeton Holyfield (16) await the next serve from the Lady Tigers.



Above: Senior libero Brooklyn Haynes (1) tries to steer a service return to any of the teammates surrounding her: (from left) Bailey Ann Whitby (13), Kinleigh Lamb (behind Haynes), Kylee Garrett (22), and Madi Collins (6).



Above: Jiorgia Elmore, serving here, had a long day. She led worship music in the morning at the See You at the Pole event, and played this volleyball match at night.