

CROCKETT XC GIRLS PULL A SURPRISE; SOCCER, VB TEAMS FALL



Above: Lady Cav goaltender Hannah Johnson faced a flurry of shots all night long, managing to flag this one down despite pressure from a South Gibson attacker.



Above: Approaching the start area before the race, Crockett's girls are ready to spring a surprise. From left are Claire Davis, Leyla Silva, Ashley Boone, Leah Moore, Miley Silva, Olivia Mann, and Harmony Walker.

By Ron Barry

Julie Nass was frank: She did not expect what she was about to see.

Crockett County's cross-country coach was in Jackson for the TCA Invitational, a race that would feature 11 full teams and 126 total runners in the girls division. And here she was, missing three of her key runners due to a soccer commitment. And it was 87 degrees, so her less-experienced racers would be facing an even bigger challenge. So Nass was kind of just hoping for the best, but not planning to hit the team medal table at the event's conclusion.

But her runners had other ideas, and that led to the story-makers for the day in Crockett athletics in which two other Lady Cav squads would fall to powerful district foes.

Cross-Country: Sophomore Claire Evans is having a great season for Crockett, and she did not disappointment Tuesday in placing 8th at the TCA race, earning another medal. After that, Nass knew that her usual next three finishers - Avery and Casey Thornton and Kristin Lewis - were getting to play soccer back in Alamo. As she watched the racers come in, she wasn't sure where her team stood at the time.

"I thought I had seen several Huntingdon girls come in fairly close to each other," Nass said. "So no one was more surprised than me when they announced, 'Third place goes to Crockett County.' The girls really stepped up."

They stepped up so much, in fact, they were actually upset when they found out they had missed second place by a single point to homestanding TCA. Obion County Central - as usual in West Tennessee events - claimed the team championship.

Behind Obion's 25 team points - it had five of the race's top 17 finishers - came TCA at 105. Crockett had 106, as Harmony Walker placed 30th, Leyla Silva 34th, Olivia Mann 46th, and Ashley Boone 60th. Leah Moore was 82nd and Miley Silva 100th to help push other teams' scores higher. (Lower point totals are favorable in cross-country scoring.)

Even though Nass was surprised Tuesday, it wasn't the first time these girls had posted a third-place finish without their soccer-playing teammates present, having done so in an earlier meet.

And they had run well in the team's previous meet in Covington when the soccer players were there. In that race, Crockett was 3rd of 6 full teams (and 72 total runners), with Evans claiming 6th, freshman Avery Thornton 13th (for her first medal), Casey Thornton 16th, Walker 23rd, Lewis 25th, Leyla Silva 31st, Mann 35th, and Boone 42nd.

At TCA, Crockett placed ahead of Huntingdon, South Gibson, Chester County, McKenzie, Madison Academic, USJ, Brighton, and Bolivar Central.

In the boys division at TCA, the Cavs' best story was the continued development of freshman Jacob Wede, who placed 38th in a field of 196 racers. He ran a 19:53.50 time, his first occasion to break 20 minutes for the 5K distance.

Angel Garcia led Crockett by placing 28th, followed by Lane Foster (35th), Wede, Leck Lucky (91st), and freshman Noah Mayfield (101st). The team placed 8th out of the 16 full teams that competed. Madison Academic took the team title, just ahead of Chester County. Among the squads the Cavs bested were South Gibson, Covington, TCA, Dyer County, and McNairy Central.

Both Crockett squads will next run on October 10 when they host the Crockett Invitational on campus at 4:30.

Girls Soccer: Crockett faced an offensive onslaught from a very physical South Gibson team, and although Lady Cav goaltender Hannah Johnson managed several acrobatic saves, the Lady Hornets threaded five shots past her to post a 5-1 district triumph.

South Gibson is the current number one school in district play, but faces a rematch with powerful Dyersburg before the tournament begins.

Emme-Grace Martin tallied the lone Crockett goal against SGC, but it came after the visitors had already scored their five.

Volleyball: Another Crockett team fell Tuesday night to its top district rival when host Dyer County swept past the Lady Cavs 3-0 in straight sets. Coach Bobby Rawson's squad returns home tonight at 5:00 to play Ripley before the district tournament begins October 2nd.



Above: Olivia Mann, only a freshman, scored points for Crockett by placing 46th



Below: Harmony Walker finished solidly in 30th place for the Lady Cavs, helping them to their 3rd-place finish as a team.



Left: Sophomore Claire Evans continued her excellent season, placing 8th out of 126 total runners to medal again.



Above Crockett senior defender Casey Thornton is knocked to the ground by an aggressive South Gibson player going after the ball in Tuesday night's 5-1 Lady Hornet win.



Left: Lane Foster's 35th-place finish at the TCA Invitational helped keep the Cavs in the top half of the field.



Above: Freshman Jacob Wede leads a pack of runners down the final stretch on his way to placing 38th out of 196 total racers, sparking the Cav boys to an 8th-place mark.