

LADY CAV SOFTBALLERS FALL TO DYER COUNTY IN JACKSON TOURNAMENT SEMIFINAL



Above: Crockett second baseman Kinleigh Lamb tries to corral this throw from teammate Karly Pigue (who's peeking over her right shoulder), but the Dyer County runner got there at the same time. Lamb had two hits and three runs batted in as the Lady Cavs downed Hollow Rock-Bruceton 5-0 to reach the semifinal with the Lady Choctaws.

By Ron Barry

Crockett County softball coach David Barker – after “a heavy week of softball” – says he sees areas in which his team is getting better and others in which “we simply have to do a better job than we’ve been doing.”

The Lady Cavaliers currently stand at 5-2 for the season after splitting two Saturday games, the latter being the semifinal of the Sarah Beth Whitehead Memorial Tournament at the Jackson Sportsplex. Crockett entered Saturday’s play having earned the #1 seed in the tournament’s pool play portion, and looked to be continuing that path after a quarterfinal 5-0 shutout of Hollow Rock-Bruceton, a team they had beaten 4-2 during pool play.

But in the semifinal, Crockett ran into Dyer County, and the Lady Choctaws’ Maddie Williamson spun a 5-0 shutout right back at the Lady Cavs, who committed four errors and never mounted a serious offensive threat after Dyer had grabbed an early lead.

“In almost every high school game, a team is going to have at least one bad defensive inning,” Barker said after the elimination. “We have to do a better job of limiting the damage when we’re the team having the bad inning, and we have to do a better job of taking advantage of the mistakes when the other team is having the bad inning.”

In Crockett’s first game of the day, the Lady Cavs broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the third when Piper White lined a two-out single, stole second, and raced home on a short single to center field by Kinleigh Lamb. The margin went to 2-0 in the fourth when Brooklyn Haynes reached second on a leadoff error, took third on a bunt by Karly Pigue, and scored on a groundout by Anna Stallings.

Crockett broke it open with a three-run fifth. Hannah Carter reached second when her leadoff bunt was misplayed. White dropped another bunt for a single and moved to second on an error, with Carter taking third. Lamb laced a hard ground ball single up the middle to plate both runners and took second on the throw, eventually scoring from third on a steal during a pitch.

Stallings, Crockett’s pitcher, mad the runs stand up as she delivered a six-inning, one-hit shutout, striking out four without issuing a walk. White and Lamb each had two hits for the winners, with Lamb driving in three tallies.

That offense was not to be found in the semifinal against Dyer County. Williamson limited Crockett to singles by Carter, White, and Jayden Maddox, and when the Lady Cavs made their most solid contact, it went right at a Lady Choctaw fielder.

Meanwhile, Dyer took advantage of the fielding lapses in the second inning to build its 3-0 advantage, and added to it off hard-luck relief pitcher Syesha Torres, who saw the Lady Choctaws load the bases by hitting three balls poorly, but all falling in spots away from fielders. A line-drive single by Kierstyn Ray then pushed the lead to 5-0.

Crockett had a mild threat in the bottom of the sixth when its first two runners reached, but Dyer turned an improbable double play when second baseman Kennedy Hill made a diving stab of a hard liner up the middle and flipped to second to pick off the runner there.

One bright spot for Crockett was a three-inning relief stint by Gracelyn Miller, who yielded two hits but no runs. Stallings went two frames as the starter, but only one of the three runs Dyer scored off her was earned.

The Lady Cavs have a full week of games coming up, beginning Monday at Lexington at 5:30. They play at South Gibson Tuesday night at 6:30 before a Wednesday game at 5:00 vs. Arlington, a Thursday matchup with Obion County at 7:00, and a Friday duel with Munford at 5:00.



Above: Crockett's Brooklyn Haynes fields this Dyer County base hit down the left-field line and hustles the ball back in to the infield.



Above: Jayden Maddox jumps on this pitch to record a base hit against Dyer County Saturday.

Below: Gracelyn Miller (22) delivered three scoreless innings of relief against Dyer County, but Crockett's offense couldn't get them back in the game.



Above: The view from right field on a beautiful Saturday afternoon; Sadie Hoover provides the Lady Cavalier defense.



Above: Lady Cav shortstop Piper White tries to make this throw almost from her knees as relief pitcher Syesha Torres (to her right) watches. Torres had some hard luck as Dyer County kept spotting weakly-hit balls just out of the reach of Crockett fielders.



Left: Hannah Carter (8) makes this catch in right-center field and prepares a throw as a Dyer County (in the background) runner may tag. Fellow Crockett outfielder Sadie Hoover is coming in from Carter's left here to back up the play.