

HOME RUN BLASTS SPARK LADY CAVS OVER LEXINGTON 11-5



Above: Madison Solis (left) and Karly Pigue show off the home run balls from the blasts they hit at Lexington Monday night in an 11-5 Crockett victory. (Photo courtesy of Lady Cavaliers Diamond Club)

By Ron Barry

They share a position – third base – and sometimes the designated hitter role for Crockett County softball.

On Monday, on the road at Lexington, they shared something else: the joy of dancing around the bases after both hit home runs over the fence in the same game.

Junior Madison Solis and senior Karly Pigue each blistered a line drive over Lexington's center-field fence as the Lady Cavaliers fought off the frigid weather by heating up the bats early and often in an 11-5 victory over the Lady Tigers.

Solis got the start at third base in this one, and came up to bat as the leadoff hitter for Crockett in the second inning after the Lady Cavs had already built a 3-0 edge in the first. Piper White reached on an error, stole second, took third while Lynden Cole was drawing a walk, and came home on a Kinleigh Lamb groundout. Jayden Maddox then singled in the hole at shortstop, chasing home courtesy runner Gabby Bursey. Brooklyn Haynes made it a first-frame threespot by doubling to left field, driving in Maddox.

Solis kicked off the second for Crockett by ripping a double to center, advancing to third on a Destiny Foster groundout. White singled her home and again immediately stole second. After Hannah Carter sacrificed her over to third, Lady Cav catcher Lynden Cole drove her home with a base right to right, and Coach David Barker's squad was quickly up 5-0.

Lexington picked up a run in the bottom of the second, aided by one of the five errors Crockett committed in the game and a passed ball, but Cole picked a runner off first to shut down any remaining threat.

Haynes reached on a Lady Tiger error to begin the third, and after a fielder's choice forceout, Solis cranked a shot over the center-field fence to boost the Crockett advantage to 7-1.

The Lady Cavs kept the pressure on in the fourth. With one out, outfielder Hannah Carter – moved up to second in the batting order in this game – beat out a single to short and stole second, advancing to third when Cole flied out to right field. Lamb, who has been driving in runs at a high percentage this season when she hits with runners in scoring position, then singled Carter home for an 8-1 lead.

Anna Stallings was Crockett's starting pitcher, and did her job by yielding just the unearned run and only three hits through three innings. But with the large lead, Barker took the opportunity to get Gracelyn Miller some more frames in from the pitcher's circle, and the senior immediately responded with two scoreless innings. In the sixth, Lexington managed a run after a leadoff triple, but Miller pitched out of an error-caused jam and Crockett led 8-2 heading into the final stanza.

Cole led off the Crockett seventh with a line single to center, and Bursey came in again as a courtesy runner and immediately swiped second. Lamb drew a walk, but it looked like the Lady Cavs might waste a scoring opportunity when two pop-ups almost negated the wild pitch that moved both runners ahead a base.

That's when Barker summoned Pigue from the bench to pinch-hit – a tough assignment any time, but especially so when the wind chill is in the 20s and you've been sitting there trying to find ways to stay warm for six innings.

"I was not in the line-up, and it was the last inning, so I was on the bench eating sunflower seeds and cheering my team on," Pigue said afterward. "Coach Barker called my name to hit for Anna (Stallings) because she had been replaced in the (pitcher's) circle. I stepped into the box and swung at the first pitch. All I could think was I needed to get a good hit for my team. I swung the bat and I could hear that it was a good hit. I looked up and saw it going over the fence and I was overjoyed!"

Pigue's three-run shot made it 11-2 and offset the three runs Lexington scored in the bottom of the seventh when a walk and a two-out error put two baserunners on for Carly Williams, who smashed a shot over the center-field fence to close the game's scoring.

Only one of Lexington's runs was earned as Stallings and Miller continued to provide solid pitching efforts. But Crockett needs to shore up its defensive play if it wants to compete in a strong District 13-AAA. That challenge begins Tuesday night when the Lady Cavs host South Gibson at 6:30 p.m.

Cole and Solis had two hits each against Lexington; White scored twice and drove in a run; Lamb and Solis each drove in two tallies; and Maddox and Haynes each had a hit and a run batted in. Crockett is now 6-2 on the season.



Above: Lynden Cole had two hits, drove in a run, and picked a Lexington runner off first base from her catcher's position in the Crockett triumph.



Above: Kinleigh Lamb drove in two more runs for the Lady Cavaliers, giving her six RBIs in her last four games.