

# WEDNESDAY NOT A GOOD DAY ON THE DIAMONDS FOR CROCKETT TEAMS



**Above:** Blaine Nichols notched three hits for the Cavalier baseball team Wednesday evening, but they fell to Union City on a seventh-inning walk-off.

All in all, the visitors banged out 19 hits against Crockett pitchers Gracelyn Miller and Syesha Torres, and missed a twentieth only because it was hit so hard Miller couldn't get out of the way. It drilled her in the thigh and she then picked up the ball and threw the batter out. Her resilience drew some smiles from the Lady Cav infielders after she made the play – but there wasn't much else to smile about after Arlington built a 6-0 lead in the top of the first and then piled on from there.

One bright offensive spot for Crockett was designated hitter Lynden Cole, who singled in the first, doubled in two runs in the third, singled in the fifth, and capped her night with a line-drive home run over the center-field fence. For the game, Cole was 4-for-4 with two runs scored and three driven in.

Piper White and Hannah Carter had two hits apiece for the Lady Cavs, including a double each. Carter, Kinleigh Lamb, and Jayden Maddox had the other Crockett RBIs. Graham was 3-for-5 with the five RBIs for Arlington, who also received three hits from winning pitcher Kendall Wilkie and DH Grace Pentecost. Brittanie Layton added a solo homer and Avery Wright knocked in three runs.

Crockett, now 7-3, hosts district opponent Obion County Thursday night at 7:00.

**BASEBALL:** If you like to watch Crockett baseball and you want to also know how the Cavs are doing, you better be prepared to stick around for the last inning – because it seems like that's when all their games are being decided. Coach Brent Fronabarger's club has now played six games this season, and the outcomes of the last five have been determined by runs in the final frame.

It happened again Wednesday evening at Union City, when the hosts used a walk-off single by Luke Joslin – his fourth hit of the game – to tally the winning run in the bottom of the seventh after Crockett had rallied with two outs in the top of the stanza to tie the game.

“Joseph Gould hit a one-out single and took second on a wild pitch during an ensuing strikeout. Callan Willis singled him to third and eventually stole second, giving the Cavs two men in scoring position with two outs for pinch-hitter Cade Freeman. Freeman ripped a hard ground ball up the middle to plate both runners and tie the contest at 6-all. Crockett loaded the bases on a Landon Wicker single and an infield error, but a strikeout got Union City out of the inning.

In the bottom of the frame, Crockett pitcher Brady Fronabarger struck out the first two hitters, but then walked the next three batters to load the bases. Joslin then delivered a line drive to center for the game-winner.

The Cavs scored a run in the opening inning on a single by Blaine Nichols and a two-out double by Carter Winders. They tallied again in the third on singles by Nichols and Mason Ray and a sacrifice fly by Fronabarger.

Fronabarger double and scored on a groundout by Grayson Lambert for the first of two runs in the fifth. Willis knocked in the second tally with a triple to center. The rally temporarily gave Crockett a 4-2 lead, but Union City scored once in the fifth and three times in the sixth to regain the edge. Four of the hosts' runs were unearned, as the Cavs continue to have trouble locking down their defense.

Nichols paced the Crockett offense with three hits and two runs scored. Willis had two hits and a stolen base for the Cavs, who are now 2-4 and face Ripley at 4:30 Friday afternoon.



**Above:** After Arlington's first-inning offensive display indicated Crockett's outfielders would be busy the rest of the game, assistant coach Will Rigby gives some instruction to right fielder Sadie Hoover (10) and Center fielder Hannah Carter (8).

## By Ron Barry

Wednesday night, Cavalier fans of softball and baseball did not get the satisfaction of doubling up on the winning results of Tuesday night. Crockett County's softball team was whacked by Arlington 15-6, and its baseball squad dropped another last-inning decision 7-6 to Union City.

**SOFTBALL:** If Coach David Barker was worried that his girls might get the big heads after their sterling 7-5 comeback win over district power South Gibson Tuesday night, the Arlington Lady Tigers arrived in Alamo Wednesday carrying the sledgehammer of humility.

And Arlington started swinging it early and often. For the Lady Cavaliers, the game started by committing an infield error, and quickly went downhill from there. After that miscue, the Lady Tiger bats started spraying bullets everywhere, finding every conceivable gap in the field. And just for good measure, they slammed two balls off outfield fences and two more over them, including a titanic grand slam by shortstop Addie Graham, who collected five RBIs in the contest.





**Right:** Crockett shortstop Piper White loops a base hit into short left field, one of her two safeties on the night for the Lady Cavs.

**Left:** There weren't a lot of bright spots for Crockett in the Arlington game, but one came on this tough defensive play by Kinleigh Lamb, who chased this pop fly all the way from second base into foul territory...



**Below:** ... and made a lunge for it as first baseman Jayden Maddox says she's got room before she hits the fence...



**Left:** Flanked by first baseman Jayden Maddox (to her left) and third sacker Karly Pigue (to her right), Gracelyn Miller delivers a pitch against Arlington Wednesday night.

**Below:** Freshman Syesha Torres gained some varsity experience, pitching in relief later in the contest.



**Above:** ... and completes the dazzling play with this slide while securing the ball in the glove with her right hand.



**Left:** But easily the brightest star of the night for Crockett was senior Lynden Cole, operating as the designated hitter and more than living up to assignment: she went 4-for-4 with two singles, a double, and her first home run of the season on a line shot to center.



**Left:** Except for the Arlington onslaught, it was a nice March night for a ballgame.