

CROCKETT DIAMONDERS SWEEP OBION COUNTY FOR FAST DISTRICT START



Above: Blaine Nichols collected three hits and scored three runs in Game 2.

In the first contest, Cav second baseman Landon Wicker went 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles and three runs scored as Crockett jumped on Obion County early and often. Shortstop Reed Ingram also contributed three hits, while Grayson Lambert added two safeties and also drove in two runs.

Joseph Gould knocked in three runs and Callan Willis two in the game. Designated hitter Cade Freeman slugged a solo home run to support an outstanding pitching outing from Carter Winders, who limited the Rebels to two hits while striking out nine and yielding just one run, which was unearned.

Game 2 was a much more tightly-contested affair. Crockett scored in the first on a bases-loaded walk to Lambert, following a leadoff single by Blaine Nichols, a double by Fronabarger, and another walk to Winders. But Obion countered with a two-run second, aided by two Cav infield errors.

Crockett evened it at 2-2 in the third when Winders was hit by a pitch and Gould doubled courtesy runner Baker Maddox home.

It stayed 2-2 until the top of the sixth, when Nichols led off with his third hit of the game and took third on another single by Ingram. Following an intentional walk to Fronabarger, Winders drew another base on balls to force in the go-ahead run.

Gould then grounded into a fielder's choice back to Rebel pitcher Hamilton May, who threw home to retire Ingram. After that, hilarity ensued on the play, as May committed an error that allowed Gould to get all the way around to third and two more runs to score for a 5-2 Cav advantage. Willis doubled Gould in one out later to increase the margin.

Crockett struck for three more in the seventh. Wicker was hit by a pitch, but was retired at second on a bunt attempt by Nichols, who eventually took second on a wild pitch. After a walk to Ingram, Fronabarger slammed a two-run double to make it 8-2. Winders followed with another double to bring in courtesy runner Bryson Vance.

Gould relieved winning pitcher Fronabarger to start the seventh, and despite a couple of walks and an error, escaped with only one unearned run being scored. Fronabarger went the first six innings, allowing just four hits and no earned runs while striking out six.

Crockett goes on the road for two games this weekend, playing at noon Friday at McKenzie and at noon Saturday at Millington. The Cavs are scheduled to be home Monday for a 4:30 district matchup with Dyer County.



Very Top: Landon Wicker had three hits, with two doubles, and scored three runs in Game 1.

Above: Joseph Gould knocked in three runs in Game 1 and doubled home another in Game 2.

By Ron Barry

Crockett County's baseball team didn't let a delay caused by weather situations get in the way of its focus for its district openers Wednesday evening.

With wind and rain postponing Monday's original date, and a soaked field Tuesday (because the overnight wind blew the tarp off Obion County's field) doing it again, Coach Brent Fronabarger's Cavaliers were finally able to get down to business in Troy on a sunny but cool Wednesday.

The result was a doubleheader sweep of the homestanding Rebels, with Crockett taking the first game 11-1 and the second 9-3. The opener was a run-rule game; the second was tied 2-2 until Crockett erupted for seven runs in the final two frames.

The sweep evened Crockett's season record at 4-4, but more importantly gets the Cavaliers off to a solid start in their always-tough district.