

TEN-SPOT GIVES STALLINGS ALL SHE NEEDS; LADY CAVS ROLL OVER DYERSBURG



Above: Third baseman Madison Solis capped the 10-run uprising with a bases-clearing double to deep left field for the Lady Cavs.

By Ron Barry

In softball, if you only score in one inning, that's generally not going to be good news for you.

But - chances are - if that one inning of offense produces a ten-spot, that's a different story.

And if you have a pitcher like Crockett County's sophomore star Anna Stallings, virtually all doubt about the outcome has been removed.

Thursday night at Dyersburg, the Lady Cavs hung a 10-run rally on the host Lady Trojans in the fourth inning, and the resilient Stallings more than made it stand up, twirling a two-hit shutout as Crockett roared to a 10-0 district win, its third in four league matchups. Overall, Coach David Barker's squad is now 10-4.

The triumph was important for the Lady Cavs for more reasons than just improving their record, none of them bigger than the fact it proves once again how this team can bounce back from adversity.

Prior to Thursday night, the last time Crockett was on a softball field was Tuesday evening's gut-punch defeat at Dyer County, when the Lady Choctaws' Maddie Wilkerson smashed a walk-off, two-run homer to cap a three-run rally that beat the Lady Cavs 3-2.

Up until the rally, Stallings had hurled six shutout innings. It would have been a legitimate question to wonder whether a high school sophomore could quickly rebound from such a shock to the system.

Stallings is no ordinary sophomore, however. Her senior catcher Lynden Cole has repeatedly testified to her maturity in the pitching circle, and that she's extraordinarily even-keeled. That resolve showed through again at Dyersburg, as she utilized her defense to record five scoreless frames in the run-ruled game.

Stallings struck out the first batter she faced. Every out after that was recorded by another member of the Crockett defense. First baseman Jayden Maddox turned in an unassisted double play in the bottom of the second, and third baseman Madison Solis handled a groundout in the fourth to leave a Dyersburg runner stranded in scoring position. Other than that, the Lady Trojans never even really sniffed a chance to get on the scoreboard.

Crockett loaded the bases in the top of the second but didn't score, so the contest was 0-0 as the visiting Lady Cavs came to bat in the top of the fourth. They proceeded to trot 10 baserunners across home plate in the uprising, and each of the 10 runs was earned, against two different Lady Trojan pitchers.

Senior Brooklyn Haynes led off with a single to center field, and Maddox and pinch-hitter Piper Smith drew back-to-back walks to load the sacks again. Stallings then supplied the only tally she'd end up needing by singling sharply to center, chasing Haynes home.

With the bases still packed - courtesy runner Tink Willis was now running for Stallings - senior outfielder Destiny Foster patiently drew another base on balls, forcing in Maddox with the second run. Dyersburg changed pitchers, relieving Addison Gatlin with Izzie Odom - who was no more accurate, immediately issuing a base on balls to Piper White, bringing home Smith with the third run.

Following a strikeout - and with the bases still juiced - Cole helped her battery mate out by lining a two-run double to right field, pushing the score to 5-0. Kinleigh Lamb then ripped a two-run single right up the middle to make it 7-0, Crockett.

Hayes smacked her second hit of the inning, a liner to right, and Maddox walked again to re-load the bases - but not for long. Solis cleared them off by belting a long double to left to drive home all three runners, and suddenly a scoreless game was 10-0.

Cole - with two doubles - Lamb, and Haynes each had two hits for the Lady Cavs. Solis, White, Foster, and Stallings had the others. Maddox scored two runs after drawing two walks, and Haynes also scored twice during the big fourth frame for Crockett.

The Lady Cavs are now off until Monday, when they will host Covington in a 5:00 p.m. contest. They'll also play at Scotts Hill on Tuesday and will host Gibson County on Thursday, both also scheduled for 5:00.



Above: Anna Stallings threw a two-hit shutout and even drove in the game's first run with a single -- the only run she'd need.



Above: Catcher Lynden Cole hammered a pair of doubles and also drew a base on balls for the winners, now 10-4.



Above: Senior outfielder Brooklyn Haynes collected two hits and scored two runs in the same big inning for Crockett.