

DYER COUNTY OFFENSE TOO STRONG FOR CAVALIER DIAMONDERS AGAIN



Above: Crockett's Carter Winders had two hits and drove in two runs for the Cavaliers, but Dyer County held on for a 9-6 win. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

For the second night in a row, Dyer County's offense proved to be too much for Crockett County's countermeasures.

The host Choctaws, which handed the Cavaliers an 8-0 defeat in Alamo Monday night, jumped to a similar lead Tuesday evening and weathered a late rally to down Crockett 9-6 in Newbern. The loss left the baseballers with a 2-2 district record and a 6-6 mark overall.

Dyer County scored the game's first run in the second inning without the benefit of a hit when John Smith walked, stole second, took third on a groundout, and then pulled off a steal of home.

The Choctaws added two more in the third off Crockett starting pitcher Brady Fronabarger. Everett Kuykendall reached on an infield single and came around to score on a double to right by Jon-David Binkley, who then cruised home on a one-out triple by Talon Messer. Fronabarger managed to strand Messer at third when he got Trey Tarkington to ground out to Cav second baseman Landon Wicker and Smith to fly out to right fielder Callan Willis.

Crockett tried to fight back in the fourth when Blaine Nichols singled sharply to right, but was still at first two outs later. Cav catcher Carter Winders drilled a double to right that plated Nichols, and Winders took third on the throw, but he was left there on a groundout.

The 3-1 deficit ballooned to 8-1 in the bottom of the frame, however, as Dyer County cranked up its attack by scoring all five runs with two outs. A single, a hit batsman, and a catcher's interference call loaded the bases for the Choctaws before Kole Fenton grounded a two-run single to center. Messer followed with a single to left, making it 6-1. After Tarkington drew a walk, Fenton scored on a wild pitch and Smith singled Messer home.

Crockett rallied in the top of the sixth to make it 8-3 when Joseph Gould lined a run-scoring single to plate Nichols, who had led off with his second hit, and Willis drew a bases-loaded walk. An ensuing groundout left the sacks loaded for the visitors.

Dyer County pushed the margin to 9-3 on a Smith sacrifice fly in the bottom of the sixth.

Crockett made one final push in the top of the seventh. Pinch-hitter Tyler Rathbun singled to center and, two outs later, reached third after walks to Reed Ingram and Fronabarger. Following two wild pitches that allowed Rathbun and Ingram to score, Winders lined a single to the right side to chase Fronabarger home to cut the gap to 9-6.

Choctaw relief pitcher Easton Ozment came on to get a strikeout to end the game, and the Cav uprising fell short. Winders and Nichols, with two hits each, had four of Crockett's six safeties in the contest. Gould and Rathbun managed the others. Nichols and Fronabarger, who had a walk and was hit by a pitch, tallied two runs apiece.

Fronabarger yielded eight runs (seven earned) in his four innings of work. Gould and Mason Ray each threw an inning of relief for Crockett.

The Cavs are next scheduled to travel to Dyer Thursday afternoon to take on Gibson County and then move on Friday for another road game at Halls.



Above: Joseph Gould knocked in a run for Crockett and contributed an inning of relief pitching. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Blaine Nichols scored runs after leading off two different innings with hits. (Photo by Ron Barry)