

COLE'S 2-HR, 7-RBI GAME LEADS CROCKETT TO A THREE-SPORT WIN NIGHT



Above: Lady Cav outfielder Brooklyn Haynes winces while talking with first base coach Jeremy Maddox while moving her arm around after being drilled by a pitch in Thursday night's 17-1 romp over Gibson County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

On a night when Crockett County sports compiled three wins and a slew of highlights, it was a “stick to the basics” approach that may have delivered the most extraordinary results.

Lady Cavalier softball catcher Lynden Cole – who took a giant leap forward last season in her hitting prowess – is beginning to notice that Crockett opponents have noticed it too.

“The difference between this season and last season is that now pitchers are starting to throw around me,” Cole said, “so that’s the adjustment I’ve been working on to make in these past few weeks. The line-drive mentality is still the one I’m sticking with and has shown the best results so far. It’s still a work in progress; playing as many games as we are, it’s easy for things to slowly sneak into your swing that you don’t see until it becomes a problem, so right now I’m just sticking to working the basics consistently and letting things roll.”

Cole’s “roll” was joined with a lot of “rock” Thursday night as she jolted two long home runs – a two-run shot in the first and a walk-off grand slam in the fourth – as the Lady Cavs steamrolled Gibson County 17-1 in a run-rule contest halted after Cole’s second bomb pushed the margin past 15 runs before the fifth inning.

It came on a night when Crockett’s soccer team demolished Jackson South Side 9-0 and the baseball team held off a late rally to edge Gibson County 7-6, completing a sports sweep for the evening.

SOFTBALL: On a night dedicated to Autism Awareness – a special concern of Coach David Barker’s daughter Reese, who lost her life in an August auto accident – the Lady Cavs donned special socks and then proceeded to knock the socks off the Lady Pioneers.

After a ceremonial opening pitch by Klay Irvin, son of Crockett basketball coach Kayla Irvin – which went for a perfect strike to designated catcher Jayden Maddox – the Lady Cavs allowed an unearned run in the top of the first and then unleashed their biggest offensive barrage since a season-opening 26-1 pounding of Jackson North Side.

Gibson County’s 1-0 lead lasted only as long as it took Crockett’s leadoff hitter Piper White to beat out a bunt to short, steal second, and then trot home when Cole clobbered the first of her two home runs, a deep drive over the center field fence.

Crockett piled it on in the second frame. Maddox drew a walk and took second on a wild pitch. One out later, White beat out a grounder to short, advancing Maddox to third, and then promptly stole second again. With two outs, Cole drew a walk to load the bases, bringing up Kinleigh Lamb.

While she was batting, Lady Pioneer pitcher Hannah Prestininzi uncorked another wild pitch, scoring Maddox, and then walked Lamb to re-load the bases. Yet another wild pitch allowed White to score, and then Prestininzi hit Brooklyn Haynes with a pitch, again re-loading the sacks. Destiny Foster hit a ground ball and reached on an error at first base on a play in which two more Lady Cavs crossed the plate, making it 6-1. Crockett third baseman Madison Solis then cranked a long line-drive double off the left-center field fence, and suddenly it was 8-1, Lady Cavs.

Crockett added two more tallies in the third. With one out, White beat out yet another infield hit and continued to second on an error. Hannah Carter followed with a line-drive double to center, chasing White home. Carter took third on a passed ball and scored on a groundout by Cole, making it 10-1.

The floodgates opened again in the bottom of the fourth. Outfielder Sadie Hoover drew a leadoff walk and Solis followed with a single to center. Maddox reached on a ground ball error to load the bases, and pinch-hitter Gracelyn Miller delivered a two-run single up the middle. After White walked to load the sacks again, Carter drew another one to force in a run, making it 13-1 and keeping the bases loaded.

That didn’t last long. On a 2-0 pitch, Cole belted a line drive that easily cleared the left field fence for the game-ending grand slam that sent the shivering fans home on a cold night. “I was shivering myself,” Cole laughed after the game.

Cole’s seven runs batted in paced the offense, along with White’s 3-for-3, four runs scored, and two stolen bases. Carter, Solis, and Miller each drove in two runs. Winning pitcher Anna Stallings went the first three innings, allowing just one hit and striking out five. Miller finished up with a scoreless fourth, fanning two batters.

The Lady Cavs are scheduled to play three games in a Lexington tournament on Saturday. They’ll face the hosts at 11:00 a.m., Waverly at 2:00 p.m., and Huntingdon at 3:30 p.m. Crockett is now 12-4 on the season.

BOYS SOCCER: Crockett’s soccer team continued the lopsided theme of the night in Alamo by pounding Jackson South Side 9-0 with a relentless offensive attack that peppered the Hawks’ goaltender with a constant barrage of shots.

Coach Stan Jamscek’s club spread the joy around in the mismatch, with six different players scoring goals and five contributing assists. Jamscek was substituting liberally before the midway point of the opening half.

Edgar Juarez was the biggest point producer of the night, collecting three goals and two assists. Luke Carter was Crockett's other multiple-goal scorer with two and also notched an assist.

Braulio Marquez, Angel Garcia, Eddy De La Rosa, and Leo Arreola all netted a goal apiece, with Garcia and De La Rosa each dishing off a couple of assists. Goalkeeper Noah Mayfield even picked up an assist for Crockett, which will next play in a tournament in Huntingdon beginning Friday. The Cavs' games in the HHS Keeper Club Tournament will be against McEwen on Friday at 5:30, against Munford at noon Saturday, and against Jackson North Side at 3:00 Saturday.

The Cavs are now 3-0 in the young season.

BASEBALL: Only one Crockett team had to hit the road on Thursday, but it was a successful trip for Coach Brent Fronabarger's diamonds, hanging on for a 7-6 triumph at Gibson County.

The deciding blow for the winners came during a six-run uprising in the top of the second inning when Crockett second baseman Landon Wicker drilled a bases-loaded, line-drive double into the left-center field gap, clearing the sacks and overcoming a 2-0 Pioneer advantage.

Gibson County had scored twice in the first on a walk and two doubles, but the Cavs roared right back in the top of the second. Callan Willis led off with a walk and took second when Grayson Lambert was hit by a pitch. Cade Freeman beat out a bunt single to load the bases, and Wicker cleared them one out later with his smash into the outfield gap.

Blaine Nichols then was issued a base on balls and Reed Ingram singled to re-load the sacks. Brady Fronabarger's ground ball to second was booted for an error as Wicker scored to make it 4-2, Cavs. Carter Winders followed with a base hit to right to plate two more tallies.

Gibson County cut it to 6-3 in the bottom of the fourth on a triple and two-out single, but Crockett offset that run in the sixth when Nichols was hit by a pitch, went to third on an Ingram single, and scored on a sacrifice fly by Fronabarger.

Right: Lady Cav shortstop Piper White applies the tag to a Gibson County baserunner on a steal attempt, but it's just a bit late. While the runner later scored, White more than offset that effort by going 3-for-3 with four runs scored and a couple of stolen bases. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Closing out final innings has not been Crockett's strong suit this season, and Thursday evening's contest was no exception. In the bottom of the seventh, relief pitcher Preston Lambert issued a leadoff walk and a single. After a flyout, a groundout to Wicker advanced the runners to second and third, but there were now two outs.

A Cav error allowed a run to score before Gibson's Evan Simpson smacked a double to make it 7-5. Carter Croom slammed another double to center to trim the margin to a single digit, and Clayton Croom drew a walk from Crockett's second reliever Bryson Vance, putting the tying and winning runs on base for the hosts. It got worse when Vance hit Cooper Milligan to load the bases, but he then induced a fly ball from Cooper Pierce to right fielder Willis for the game-ending out.

The Pioneers actually out-hit the Cavs 11-9, with Wicker and Ingram the only Crockett players to collect two hits. Winders and Fronabarger backed Wicker's three RBIs with two apiece.

Starting pitcher Grayson Lambert went six innings to pick up the win, scattering eight hits and allowing three earned runs. He struck out two and walked two.

Crockett is now 7-6 on the season and travels to Halls Friday for a 5:00 contest.

Below: Lynden Cole is greeted at home plate by her jubilant teammates after slugging a two-run homer in the first inning against Gibson County Thursday night. Cole would add a grand slam later in the game to finish with seven RBIs as Crockett steamrolled the Lady Pioneers 17-1. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: With her teammates looking on from the dugout -- and all wearing their Autism Awareness socks in memory of Reese Barker and the effort to raise funds for a sensory room to benefit children -- Crockett pitcher Anna Stallings delivers a first-inning fastball. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett third baseman Madison Solis tries to shade her eyes from the first-inning setting sun as she awaits a pitch from Anna Stallings. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Coach David Barker huddles with his baserunners, assistant coach Jeremy Maddox, and next batter Destiny Foster as Gibson County conducts a mound meeting at the same time. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Lady Cav senior Gracelyn Miller pitched an inning of scoreless relief and also contributed a two-run single at the plate as Crockett rocked Gibson County 17-1. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: A common sight at Crockett's soccer game with Jackson South Side Thursday evening was Cav players congratulating each other after scoring goals. Here, Braulio Marquez (left) salutes Luke Carter (right) after Carter netted one of his two goals in the 9-0 contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Eddy De La Rosa broke out of the pack and poked this shot past the South Side goalkeeper midway through the opening half. De La Rosa also had two assists to go with his goal. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Edgar Juarez (9) was Crockett's biggest point producer against the Hawks, netting three goals and contributing two assists. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: One of the reasons Crockett's team is so good is that it has a player with an actual soccer ball for a head. Truthfully, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: ... the head belongs to Santiago Santos (30), shown here making a play after the ball has dropped from face level. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Crockett's Eduardo Gonzalez (31) slashes between several South Side defenders to try to set up a teammate for a shot in Thursday evening's 9-0 rout of the Hawks. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Brady Fronabarger (3) knocked in two runs with a groundout and a sacrifice fly for Crockett in its 7-6 win over Gibson County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Crockett's baseball team knocked off Gibson County 7-6 Thursday night, and the biggest blow for the winners was delivered by second baseman Landon Wicker (14), who ripped a three-run double in a six-run second inning. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Ozzie Sanchez (12) looks to clear this ball upfield to a racing teammate late in Thursday evening's first half against South Side. (Photo by Ron Barry)

