

# SOFTBALL TEAM FALLS TO DYERSBURG & WESTVIEW; TENNIS SQUAD HAS WON TWO IN A ROW



**Above:** Crockett's Baker Jones scored a key singles victory Monday afternoon as the Cavalier tennis team downed Haywood. (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

Back on March 28, Crockett County's softballers rolled up to Dyersburg, dropped a tenspot on the Lady Trojans in the fourth inning, and got back on the bus one frame later due to the mercy rule with a 10-0 victory behind the two-hit pitching of Anna Stallings.

Tuesday night, in the rematch in Alamo, it was Dyersburg showing no mercy while the Lady Cavaliers were showing a concerning inability to catch the ball.

In one of the sloppiest games ever played – Crockett made six errors, and Dyersburg made seven – the Lady Trojans outlasted their hosts 12-9 mainly by barreling up almost every pitch in between the ones the Lady Cavs were booting. All six Crockett miscues came on the left side of the infield, and if it hadn't been for another offensive explosion by senior catcher Lynden Cole, the contest wouldn't have been close.

And as if the pain of suffering a district defeat to a team they had previously beaten 10-0 didn't hurt enough, the Lady Cavs then had to face University of Tennessee signee McCall Simms in a nightcap game against Westview.

The Crockett offense disappeared completely in that one as Simms threw an immaculate inning – nine pitches, three strikeouts – on her way to a 3-0 shutout. Simms, who also hit a two-run homer in the fourth, struck out 13 of the 17 batters she faced.

The Lady Cavs knew that facing Westview, the defending TSSAA 2-A state champion, would be a tough task, especially with the ultra-talented junior Simms on the pitching rubber. But it was the Jekyll-and-Hyde Dyersburg team that provided Crockett with its biggest disappointment of the night.

The Lady Trojans batting Tuesday night in no way resembled the squad that faced Stallings three weeks ago. But then again, Crockett's defense made just one error in that game.

A leadoff walk, a stolen base, a sacrifice bunt to move the runner to third, and a kicked ground ball put Dyersburg immediately ahead 1-0. Two more singles loaded the bases, but Lady Cav first baseman Jayden Maddox caught a pop fly and second baseman Kinleigh Lamb threw out the next batter to end the frame.

Crockett responded quickly. Piper White beat out a bunt single and Destiny Foster's line drive to second was mishandled for an error. With Cole batting and facing a 2-and-2 count, the Lady Cavs pulled off a double steal, and both runners kept going as Dyersburg threw the ball around. White scored and Foster ended up at third, and Cole promptly singled her in to make it 2-1, Crockett.

After Lamb sacrificed Cole to second, a Brooklyn Haynes single to left brought in courtesy runner Gabby Bursey for a 3-1 Lady Cav advantage.

A walk, a passed ball, a fielder's choice, and two singles allowed the Lady Trojans to tie it back up in the top of the second. It didn't last long, though, as Foster hit another hard line drive with two outs that was dropped by the left fielder and Cole – who had homered twice the night before and driven in seven runs in a 17-1 rout of Covington – mashed a titanic two-run bomb well over the left-center field fence to make it 5-3.

In the third, two more singles and another error allowed Dyersburg to load the bases, and Chelby Jordan then drilled a liner that went straight off the glove of a Crockett infielder to tie the game again. It would have been worse if Cole had not thrown a runner out at third.

In the top of the fourth, a single and yet another infield error set up a fielder's choice play at the plate in which no Lady Trojan was retired, and an ensuing sac fly put Dyersburg ahead 7-5. A nearby lightning warning then delayed the game for 30 minutes.

When play resumed, Foster ripped a single to center and Cole was intentionally walked. Lamb grounded into a fielder's choice out, but then the Lady Trojans kept throwing the ball around trying to record an extra out until it was finally thrown away, allowing courtesy runner Piper Smith to score, narrowing the margin to 7-6.

But it was the top of the fifth that proved to be Crockett's undoing, and it all happened with two outs and what looked like what could have been a harmless walk. However, Lillian Jones lined a single to center, and Madyson Lanier belted a double to left. Izzie Odom singled to center, Ali Alford singled to left, another infield grounder was booted, and Emma Pritchett singled to left. Suddenly it was 12-6, Dyersburg.

Crockett got one back in the bottom of the sixth when White reached on another bunt single, stole second, and came home when Cole's liner to right was dropped by the outfielder. In the bottom of the seventh, Hannah Carter drew a two-out walk, White singled on a flare to left, and Foster worked a base on balls to load the sacks for Cole, who laced a two-run double to right field to cut the margin to 12-9. But the rally – and the game – ended there.

Cole was 3-for-4 with a double, home run, and five runs batted in for Crockett. White had three hits and Lamb, Haynes, and Sadie Hoover contributed two each. Gracelyn Miller came in to pitch 2.1 innings of scoreless relief for the Lady Cavs.

In the nightcap game with Westview, Miller started and worked out of a bases-loaded jam in the first, but the Lady Chargers' Simms – except for a two-out walk to Cole – struck out the side in the first. Miller got out of another bases-loaded situation in the second when Cole picked a runner off third. Simms fanned two more Lady Cavs in the bottom of the second.

Alexis Evans hit a solo homer for Westview in the top of the third, while Simms picked up three more strikeouts in the bottom of the stanza, although White touched her for a single to left. The junior hurler then showed her hitting prowess in the top of the fourth, slamming a two-run homer off Crockett reliever Syesha Torres.

In the bottom of the fourth, Haynes managed an infield single in between three more strikeouts by Simms, who then whiffed three more in the fifth to complete the shutout.

Crockett, now 15-8-1 on the season, travels to Houston High Wednesday for a 6:30 game before returning home Thursday for another district matchup with South Gibson.

**TENNIS:** Coach Sarah Kennedy's Crockett tennis team defeated Haywood Monday afternoon, coming on the heels of a clean sweep over Jackson South Side late last week.

Singles winners against Haywood were Baker Jones, Miles McCarter, Hayden Castillo, Izzy Yearwood, Casey Thornton, and Brennan Morris. Victors in doubles competition were Castillo / Jones and Aracely Procopio / Ashley Boone.

The team's next scheduled match is a 4:00 home event on Thursday.

**SOCCER:** The widely anticipated boys soccer duel between unbeaten teams Crockett County and Dyersburg was postponed by inclement weather Tuesday night and has been rescheduled for Friday night at 6:00 at the Trojans' field. The Cavaliers are 7-0 heading into the contest.



**Left:** Senior catcher Lynden Cole continued her torrid hitting for Crockett, watching her long second-inning home run here sail well over the left-center field fence. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** This blast by Lynden Cole was her third in two nights and helped bring her RBI total for the two evenings to an incredible 12. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Senior second baseman Kinleigh Lamb made this diving stop of a grounder up the middle against Dyersburg ...

**Below:** ... and scrambled to her knees to almost throw the runner out at first, but was just a bit late. (Photo by Ron Barry)







**Left:** Destiny Foster was ripping line drives all over the place Tuesday night against Dyersburg; she scored two of the Lady Cavs' nine runs. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Sadie Hoover had two more hits Tuesday night after going 4-for-4 Monday night against Covington. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Hannah Carter (8) and Brooklyn Haynes (left) circle back toward the dugout after Carter made a running catch in left-center field against Dyersburg Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

