

PLAYS NOT MADE HOUND CAVALIER DIAMONDERS; HOUSTON BESTS CROCKETT SOFTBALLERS



Above: Crockett southpaw Brady Fronabarger struck out 10 batters in five innings of work against Peabody Wednesday, but had to work his way through six uncharacteristic walks. (Photo by Ron Barry)

There were also a couple of highly debatable umpire calls that snuffed out potential Cav rallies. One came when junior outfielder Cade Freeman, who was going from first to second on a ground ball, properly slid in the base path and never got within five feet of the second base bag – yet was called for obstruction despite the fact Peabody second baseman Brandon Halbrook had already lost control of the ball before he took the two steps necessary to even reach Freeman so he could fall over him. The obstruction ruling gave the visitors a double play, and ended Crockett's at-bat in the fourth.

The other ended the bottom of the fifth when courtesy runner Baker Maddox was called out while attempting to steal second, despite the fact that the tag appeared to miss him completely because Maddox had already slid around and past it before the throw arrived.

But Cavalier head coach Brent Fronabarger would be the first to say neither of those situations would have mattered if his players had just made some plays that they should have made – errors or not.

It started in the very first inning when Fronabarger issued two of his walks, but had two outs with the runners still on first and second. Lead runner Alan Torres broke for third while Guillermo Collazo Cruz hesitated at first before breaking to second. He could have been thrown out, but by the time the Crockett defense reacted and made a throw, it was too late and Torres continued all the way to home for the game's first run.

Crockett came right back to tie it up in the bottom of the first when Fronabarger singled and courtesy runner Maddox took second on a passed ball. Cav catcher Carter Winders then singled him home with a hard ground ball to center.

Fronabarger struck out the first two Peabody hitters in the second, but then a two-base infield error on a routine grounder put Aidan Raines on second. Franklin Elliott promptly singled him home with the unearned run, and the Golden Tide led 2-1.

Crockett regained the edge with a two-run third. Landon Wicker led off with a bloop single to left, and Reed Ingram followed with a line single to left. After Fronabarger was hit by a pitch to load the bases, Winders grounded into a fielder's choice at second, but got a run home. Joseph Gould grounded out to third, but it was good enough to plate another tally, and the hosts were back in front 3-2.

The Cavs found themselves in two-out trouble again in the fourth on a Torres double, another walk, and a wild pitch, but Freeman made a nice running catch of a fly to left field and held the runners with a good throw home, and Fronabarger fanned the next batter to end the frame.

In the top of the fifth – again with two outs – Peabody had a runner at second after another base on balls and a wild pitch. Raines hit a ground ball up the middle that would have been an infield hit, but wouldn't have brought the runner home from second if either Crockett infielder had stopped it from going into the outfield. Neither did, and it was suddenly 3-3.

Gould came on to pitch the sixth for Crockett, and yielded a single to Torres, who then advanced to second on a poorly thrown pickoff attempt on a 1-and-1 count. A groundout moved Torres to third before Collazo Cruz crushed a double to the center-field fence, breaking the tie. He then was able to score when a single to right by Banks McDaniel was bobbled, negating any chance of a throw to the plate when there would have been a solid chance to get the out.

Collazo Cruz made two nice defensive plays to record outs in the bottom of the seventh after Freeman had reached on a walk and advanced on a wild pitch, thwarting Crockett's final attempt at a comeback and dropping the Cavs' season record to 9-7.

Crockett managed just six singles against Torres, who issued just one walk although he hit Fronabarger twice. Winders paced the Cav offense with two runs batted in. The Cavs will host Jackson South Side Friday afternoon in their next outing.

By Ron Barry

There's an old saying in sports: Defense wins championships.

Well, here's a corollary: The plays you don't make will hurt you more than the plays you make will help you.

That was the story of Wednesday's baseball game between Crockett County and Peabody. The final box score will show that the Cavaliers made only two errors, but there were several other situations in which a headier play might have helped prevent the 5-3 loss Crockett suffered to the Trenton squad.

Begin with pitcher Brady Fronabarger, who seemed to deserve a better fate after striking out 10 in five innings of work. Much of the time, he was extremely impressive. But he also issued an uncharacteristic six walks, and a few came back to bite him.

SOFTBALL: Coach David Barker's tour of "Murderer's Row" opponents continued Wednesday night as his Lady Cavaliers traveled to Germantown to face the 10-3 Lady Mustangs of Houston High School, and the hosts pounded out 10 hits and took advantage of nine walks to down Crockett 15-5.

Barker has stated his intent this season was to schedule the best teams in West Tennessee for his non-district games in an effort to get his squad used to facing the toughest competition possible. Houston certainly did its part to meet the billing, producing an eight-run rally in the second inning and adding tallies in each of the next three to post its triumph.

Barker utilized four pitchers who haven't seen that much action in the circle this season: Makenna Tibbs, Syesha Torres, Piper Smith, and Maddie Humphrey.

Crockett actually jumped to a 2-0 lead in the second. Sadie Hoover lined a one-out single to center and took second when Jayden Maddox reached on an infield error. Madison Solis singled to left to load the sacks before Hoover scored on a passed ball and Maddox came home on a wild pitch.

After Houston's eight-run rally in its half of the second, the Lady Cavs responded with three more tallies in the third. Destiny Foster reached on an infield error, Lynden Cole drew a walk, and Kinleigh Lamb reached on another infield boot to load the bases. Following a fielder's choice out at the plate, Hoover smacked a sacrifice fly to right field to score Cole and Lamb and Brooklyn Haynes worked a double steal to get Lamb across the plate. Solis then doubled to left to plate Haynes.

Solis went 2-for-3 as the lone Lady Cav to post a multi-hit game. Cole, Lamb, Hoover, and Maddox collected the other Crockett hits.

The Lady Cavs move back into district play Thursday at South Gibson in Medina.



Left: Cav catcher Carter Winders singled home one run and drove in another with a fielder's choice groundout against Peabody Wednesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett left fielder Cade Freeman temporarily kept the game tied at 3-3 when he made this running catch and quickly threw home to keep a Golden Tide runner on third. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Grayson Lambert laid down a perfect sacrifice bunt to get a runner in scoring position for the Cavs against Peabody. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Peabody scored its final run on this play at the plate despite the best efforts of Cav backstop Carter Winders, whose spinning tag was just a second late. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: This three-picture sequence shows how badly things were going for Crockett Wednesday. A potential rally was snuffed out when Cade Freeman (who had singled) headed for second on a ground ball hit by Preston Lambert. As he properly slid directly in the base path, Peabody second baseman Brandon Halbrook taps the bag with his foot to record the forceout ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... but note that Freeman is still a good five feet away from the bag and still is centered in the base path -- yet Halbrook has already lost control of the ball before he can throw to first for the possible double play, and there has been no contact by Freeman ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: ... and finally, after forcing himself to trip over Freeman (and still without the ball in his possession), Halbrook was awarded the double play out at first by the base umpire, who called Freeman for obstruction despite the total lack of evidence as viewed here. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Designated hitter Reed Ingram follows through on a swing that produced a base hit and later a run for the Cavs against Peabody Wednesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Madison Solis went 2-for-3 with a double and a run batted in against Houston Wednesday, but it wasn't enough as the Lady Cav softballers fell to the Lady Mustangs 15-5 in Germantown. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Sadie Hoover had one of Crockett's hits, scored a run, and drove in another with a sacrifice fly in the Lady Cavs' 15-5 loss to powerful Houston Wednesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

