

FRONABARGER SPARKS CAVALIER BASEBALL PAST MILLINGTON 8-1 SATURDAY



Above: Senior Joseph Gould worked a perfect inning of scoreless relief, retiring the side in just nine pitches. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

In his young baseball career, Crockett County's Brady Fronabarger has shown flashes of promising potential here and there.

On Saturday, the flash would have blinded somebody.

The Cavaliers' sophomore first baseman smashed a single, two doubles, and a three-run homer in four trips to the plate as Crockett hammered visiting Millington 8-1, improving the home team's season record to 10-7.

Perhaps most encouraging to the Crockett coaching staff was the fact that the Cavalier defense played an errorless game, superbly backing the two-hit pitching of a trio of hurlers: Grayson Lambert, Tyler Rathbun, and Joseph Gould. The Cav defense has been a bit leaky this spring, but it was on point Saturday.

After Millington scored its lone run in the top of the first on a walk, a stolen base, and a single by Travis Gafford, Crockett immediately answered in the bottom of the frame.

Leadoff man Blaine Nichols reached on an infield error and came all the way around to score when Fronabarger slammed the first of his doubles to left field.

The 1-1 deadlock didn't last long. In the Cav half of the second, Landon Wicker drew a one-out walk and moved to second on a Nichols single. After a second out, Fronabarger launched his three-run shot out of the ballpark over the left-field fence, and Crockett led 4-1. Another Cav run crossed in the fourth when Fronabarger singled, advanced on a walk to Carter Winders, and raced home on a Callan Willis single to left.

Crockett's final rally came in the bottom of the sixth. Fronabarger, spreading the love around, slashed a double to right field this time and took third when Winders' pop fly to short was dropped, allowing him to get all the way to second base. After a groundout, Willis drove a sacrifice fly to center that scored Fronabarger and advanced courtesy runner Preston Lambert to third.

Rathbun was then hit by a pitch and Baker Maddox came in to run for him and promptly stole second. Grayson Lambert's ground ball was booted by the Trojan second baseman, allowing his twin brother to score, and Maddox came around to score while Grayson Lambert was stealing second and forced an errant throw by the Millington catcher.

Gould made the 8-1 margin stand up by pitching a perfect seventh inning in relief, retiring the side on just nine pitches. He followed 2.2 frames of scoreless relief by Rathbun and 3.1 innings of one-run ball from starter Lambert. Crockett hurlers fanned nine Trojans on the day.

Backing Fronabarger's 4-for-4 outing were Willis with two runs batted in; Winders with a hit and two walks; Wicker with a hit and a walk; and Nichols, who contributed a hit and two runs scored.

Crockett resumes district play Monday with a 4:30 contest at South Gibson. The Cavs will then return the favor, hosting the Hornets Tuesday at 4:30.

In a full week of baseball, Crockett will also be at home Wednesday against Chester County, Thursday vs. Jackson Christian School, and Friday against the Jackson South Side Hawks. The latter three games have 4:00 starts.



Above: Landon Wicker added a hit and a walk and also scored a run to help Crockett past Millington. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Cavalier sophomore Brady Fronabarger had a big day at the plate Saturday, going 4-for-4 with a homer, two doubles, and four RBIs in an 8-1 win over Millington. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Outfielder Callan Willis knocked in a couple of runs for the Cavs on Saturday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

