

# BIG FIRST INNING CARRIES CROCKETT DIAMONDERS; LADY CAV TENNIS TOPS DYER COUNTY



**Above:** Jack Sanders delivers a forehand winner as he teamed with Baker Jones to post a #1 doubles victory against Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

Hindsight, it is said, is always 20/20.

And - in hindsight - perhaps Chester County baseball coach Mike Goff wishes he had penciled in Caleb Cole as his starting pitcher Wednesday against Crockett County.

Cole, a junior, stifled the Cavaliers on just two hits over the game's final six innings, holding Coach Brent Fronabarger's club scoreless.

The problem for the Eagles was that Cole didn't pitch the first frame. Dhanin Patel did. And Crockett took advantage of his four walks by lighting him up for four other hits, producing a six-run rally that carried the Cavs to a 6-3 victory in a game played in a Jackson South Side tournament.

By the time Blaine Nichols - batting for the second time in the opening inning - smashed a hard ground ball up the middle for a single that plated the final two runs of the uprising, Patel had thrown 42 pitches and the Cavs had matched their highest run total for one frame since an eight-tally outburst against Halls on April 5.

Nichols actually grounded out to third on the game's second pitch, but then Patel began to have trouble locating his throws. He walked Reed Ingram and Brady Fronabarger before Carter Winders singled to load the bases. Patel then walked Joseph Gould to force in the contest's first run, and it caved in on him from there.

Callan Willis lined a single to center to score Fronabarger and Landon Wicker singled to right to plate courtesy runner Preston Lambert for a 3-0 lead. Another four-pitch walk to Grayson Lambert forced in the fourth tally before the second out was finally recorded. But before Patel could catch his breath, Nichols belted his next toss into center to make it 6-0, Cavaliers.

Crockett's Tyler Rathbun made it stand up, going the distance on the mound for the winners although touched for runs in the first and third. But he effectively scattered the eight hits and three walks he allowed, with catcher Winders doing him a huge favor by picking a runner off third base in the midst of a two-run Eagle rally.

Rathbun pitched around a leadoff double in the fourth, a two-out walk in the fifth, a first-batter error in the sixth, and a one-out single in the seventh to boost Crockett's overall record to 11-9.

Willis and Winders had two hits apiece for the Cavs, supporting Nichols' big two-run single. Hunter McLemore was the lone Chester County player to collected more than one safety.

Crockett will face Jackson Christian School Thursday afternoon at 4:00 as the South Side tournament continues in Jackson.



**TENNIS:** It took eight days to complete, but Crockett's tennis teams finished a weather-interrupted match with Dyer County in Alamo Wednesday afternoon with the girls posting a 5-2 victory but the boys dropping a 4-2 decision, with one doubles match not contested.

Crockett's #1 doubles team of Izzy Yearwood and Brennan Morris blitzed Dyer's Ashlynn Poe and Aylin Ramirez 8-0 and Miley Silva posted an 8-4 triumph at #5 singles to complete the Lady Cavs' victory. The #2 doubles unit of Ashley Boone and Casey Thornton dropped a close 8-6 decision to Dyer County.

In singles battles finished on the day the match actually began - April 16 - Yearwood beat Poe 8-0 at #1; Thornton topped Ramirez 8-1 at #2; Morris dropped an extended duel with Abair 9-7 at #3; and Boone bested Emma Hilliard 8-4 at #4. With Silva adding her win Wednesday, Crockett claimed four of the five singles wins to clinch the match.

On the boys side, Dyer County had already claimed three of the first four singles encounters. Bo Dodds knocked off Crockett's Baker Jones 8-5 at #1; the Cavs' Miles McCarter took down Dyer's Mason Adkins 8-4 at #2, but was unavailable for doubles play Wednesday because of a foot injury; the Choctaws' Seth LaRue won 8-4 at #3 over Haydan Castillo; and Dyer's Clay Dodds defeated Crockett's Lance Yearwood 8-0 at #4. In the #5 match completed Wednesday, Dyer's Drayce Wright outlasted Crockett's Adam Booker 8-4.

Since the Choctaws had already scored enough points to win the team match, #2 doubles wasn't played. But in the #1 doubles contest, Crockett's Jones and Jack Sanders downed Dyer's Dodds and Adkins 8-5.

Both Crockett teams will be beginning district tournament play next week. Brackets and site locations will be decided on Friday. Sarah Kennedy is coaching the Crockett squads with the assistance of Susie Randall.

**Left:** If Brennan Morris is playing a sport for Crockett County, she's going to have a good time. And she had plenty to smile about Wednesday, teaming with Izzy Yearwood for an 8-0 win at #1 doubles vs. Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Izzy Yearwood won an 8-0 match at #1 singles and repeated the feat at #1 doubles with partner Brennan Morris as Crockett's tennis team defeated Dyer County's girls 5-2.

**Below:** Casey Thornton, playing on her fourth Lady Cav sport team this school year -- joining cross-country, soccer, and track & field -- won a #3 singles match against Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Ashley Boone posted a #4 singles win against Dyer County as the Lady Cavs won the team match 5-2 vs. the Lady Choctaws. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Blaine Nichols smashed a two-run single to complete Crockett's first-inning, six-run rally that gave the Cavaliers a 6-3 triumph over Chester County Wednesday at Jackson South Side. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Also in action Thursday evening is the Lady Cav softball team, fresh off its 6-0 win over Dyer County and featuring hard-hitting senior catcher Lynden Cole (pictured). Crockett faces Lexington in a home game. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Tyler Rathbun pitched a seven-inning complete game Wednesday for the Cavs, helping boost Crockett's overall season to 11-9.



**Above:** Miley Silva watches the ball descend as she decides which way to turn her racket. Silva plays ambidextrously, so she never has to hit a backhand. She won a #5 singles match 8-4 against Dyer County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Crockett's Callan Willis delivered the first run-scoring hit in the Cavs' six-run rally Wednesday that carried them past Chester County 6-3. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Thursday at 5 p.m. at USJ in Jackson is the highly-touted soccer battle between Crockett County and the host Bruins at the annual Best of the West event, at which the Cavs will also face TCA on Friday at 5:00. Come see Angel Martinez (pictured here) and his undefeated teammates try to make it 12 in a row Thursday evening. (Photo by Ron Barry)