

SOCGER CAVS BLAST DYERSBURG 7-1 FOR DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP; HOST BOLTON TUESDAY



Above: The final scoreboard after Chris Cerda booted in the seventh goal with just three seconds remaining. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

When you watch Crockett County's soccer team play, you get the sense that they must be communicating telepathically with each other.

When the game is over and you ask them questions – and they can finish each other's answers – you start to understand why these guys function together so well.

Coach Stan Jamscek's Cavaliers claimed the District 13-AA Tournament championship Thursday night with a dominant 7-1 rout of Dyersburg – a very good team – and now will host District 14-AA runner-up Bolton next Tuesday night in the opening round of the Region 7-AA Tournament. If they win that one – securing a berth in a West Sectional to be played after the regional – they'll travel to either Haywood or Dyersburg for the title game.

When Thursday's romp over Dyersburg was complete, Cav scoring stars Luke Carter, Chris Cerda, and Edgar Juarez were virtual carbon copies of each other with their reactions.

"This means everything," team captain Juarez said. "It is a great day to be a Cavalier. But..."

"We're not finished," Carter interrupted. "We've got more to do. This is..."

"Just momentum for State," Cerda inserted. "We're just getting started. We..."

"Still have a long way to go," Carter said, laughing as he completed his teammate's thought.

Jamscek – earning District Coach of the Year honors after the game – was beaming with the enjoyment of seeing his team perform to its potential against Dyersburg, which has been a perennially strong West Tennessee program.

"It's a good feeling," Jamscek said. "It's the best feeling in the world as a coach, seeing them play like that."

"Like that" was mostly a reference to the fact that the Cavs amped up the pressure on the visiting Trojans from the very start, pounding shot after shot until – not yet 14 minutes into the game – Carter fielded a long pass from Juarez, initiated a breakaway with his outstanding speed, and easily beat helpless goalkeeper Will Middlebrook for a 1-0 advantage.

Seven minutes later – doing what he does best – Braulio Marquez threaded a pass from the right sideline so close to the net that a sliding Eddy De La Rosa occupied the attention of a Trojan defender so well that the ball caromed off him and went into the net. It was 2-0 Cavs with 19:40 remaining in the first half.

The game's only real drama came when Dyersburg scored on a corner kick header with 17:46 to go, giving at least a fleeting impression that it wasn't going down without a fight. But seven minutes later, a significant part of that fight left them when Cerda was dragged down in front of the Trojan net, resulting in a red card and expulsion from the game for the Dyersburg player.

The play also rewarded Crockett with a direct kick opportunity from the edge of the goal box, and as Cerda lined up to take the kick, he had a softly-spoken exchange with Marquez. Cerda then took a quick step toward the ball, but suddenly stopped as Marquez came from the other side to boot it instead. The deception worked perfectly for Crockett's third goal.

Having to play a man short for the remainder of the contest, Dyersburg was no match for the Cavs – and frankly, may not have been even if it added two players on the field instead of subtracting one. Cerda scored from the left wing with 5:48 before intermission to give Crockett a 4-1 halftime edge.

When Juarez netted another goal from the top of the box with just 15:41 left in the game for a 5-1 Crockett lead, the party had basically started for the Cavs and ended for the Trojans. And just to cap things off, Juarez scored again on a rebound with 33 seconds left and Cerda somehow slipped through the Dyersburg defense to nail another one with only three ticks remaining on the clock.

In addition to the goal-scoring, Juarez and Marquez each contributed two assists, and Cerda, Angel Garcia, and Ozzi Sanchez had one apiece. Carter, Cerda, Juarez, and defender Jose Martinez were named to the All-Tournament Team for their efforts.

For the regular season, Carter, Cerda, Juarez, De La Rosa, and Marquez were selected to the All-District Team. Daniel Grajeda was voted the Defensive Player of the Year in the district, and Alan Marquez was named Goalkeeper of the Year. Marquez and freshman Noah Mayfield have been splitting time in recent games, and both have been superlative.

The Cavs improved their season record to 14-1 record. Through their 15 games this season, here are the statistical totals for Crockett players:

GOALS – Luke Carter 25, Christopher Cerda 21, Edgar Juarez 15, Eddy De La Rosa 10, Braulio Marquez 7, Angel Garcia 3, Leo Arreola 2, Angel Martinez 1, Jathen Young 1, Mason Wood 1;

ASSISTS – Edgar Juarez 16, Braulio Marquez 14, Christopher Cerda 13, Luke Carter 8, Angel Garcia 5, Eddy De La Rosa 4, Ozzi Sanchez 3, Adrian Calderon 1, Santiago Santos 1, Leo Arreola 1, Eduardo Galvez 1, Camden Martin 1, Noah Mayfield 1

TRACK & FIELD: On the final day of the West Sectional, Crockett coach Julie Nass called it “an afternoon of near-misses” as several Cavalier athletes finished in third through sixth places in events, but only the top two qualify for the TSSAA State Meet.

Crockett’s 4x800 relay team of Joy Evans, Avery Thornton, Casey Thornton, and Claire Evans finished second on Tuesday and already earned a berth in the State Championships May 21 in Murfreesboro. They were just nine seconds off the school record, and will out to break it at the State. Joy Evans has already also qualified for the State Pentathlon event, scheduled for May 15.

While only the top two finishers in events qualify for the State, the top four in each event earn medals and All-West Sectional distinction. Crockett’s Addie Davidson finished fourth in the 300-meter hurdles, running a time of 54.43; Leah Moore was fourth in the high jump with a leap of 4’8”; and Casey Thornton and Claire Evans were third and fourth in the 800-meter run (2:40.85 and 2:41.12) to all earn medals.

Those barely missing: Joy Evans was fifth in the shot put; Avery Thornton was fifth in the 800 meters; Olivia Mann and Leyla Silva were sixth and seventh in the girls 3200-meter run; Lane Foster was sixth in the boys 3200 meters; and Casey Thornton and Davidson were seventh and eighth in the triple jump.

“These were still fantastic finishes for all of West Tennessee,” Nass said of her competitors. “Just a tiny bit short of that top two State qualifying mark. But most of these runners will return and the future is bright, especially once we have a facility to train in.”



Left: Crockett's Chris Cerda dribbles the ball in toward the Dyersburg goalkeeper wearing "zero" -- which pretty accurately summarizes his likely chances of stopping the Cav sophomore. Cerda scored twice in the game and assisted on another goal. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Luke Carter netted the game's first goal when he took a long pass from Edgar Juarez (left corner in the background) and found himself so open he could have stopped to eat supper. Carter's goal was his 25th of the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's second goal came when Braulio Marquez (21) did what he does best: slide in a pass from the right sideline to a streaking Cavalier teammate ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: ... and in this case it was a sliding Eddy De La Rosa, who messed up the defender's concentration so badly that the Trojan accidentally knocked the ball into the goal himself. The look on his face says, "I can't believe that just happened." (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Angel Garcia (8) threads his way through the Dyersburg defense and eventually picks up an assist as Crockett put the game away for good with 15 minutes left to play. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: After Dyersburg had cut the Cav lead to 2-1, Chris Cerda found another breakaway opportunity and was speeding toward an open shot at the Trojan keeper ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Chris Cerda (10) faked his direct kick, Braulio Marquez (21) slipped in and took it instead, and the two raced off to celebrate the sneaky Marquez goal with their teammates ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: ... who went into one of their famous dance routines in front of a large Crockett crowd. From left: Santiago Santos (30), Angel Garcia (8), Braulio Martinez (21), Luke Carter (1), Chris Cerda (10), Eddy De La Rosa (2), and Edgar Juarez (9). (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... when he was dragged down from behind, necessitating a red card against Dyersburg and setting up a direct kick from near the top of the goal box. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: As always, Crockett's Jose Martinez (4) was a stalwart on the defensive end, here breaking up a centering pass to a Dyersburg attacker. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's Angel Martinez aids the defensive cause by heading this ball away from the Trojan forward line. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Edgar Juarez rifles this shot through the Dyersburg defense to score the Cavs' fifth goal of the contest and put the district championship on ice. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Five Crockett players were selected to the regular season All-District Team: (from left) Eddy De La Rosa, Braulio Marquez, Edgar Juarez, Luke Carter, and Chris Cerda. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: These four Cavaliers made the All-District Tournament Team this week: (from left) Jose Martinez, Edgar Juarez, Luke Carter, and Chris Cerda. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Chris Cerda and Santiago Santos celebrate the Cavaliers' district title at the final horn. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Crockett hauled in three additional awards on the night: (from left) Alan Marquez -- District Goalkeeper of the Year; Daniel Grajeda -- District Defensive Player of the Year; and flanked by his leading scorers Chris Cerda (10) and Luke Carter (1), Stan Jamscek -- District Coach of the Year. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Team captain Edgar Juarez holds up the district championship plaque as the Cavalier team celebrates their 14-1 accomplishment. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Your District 13-AA Tournament champions: The Crockett County Cavaliers, coached by Stan Jamscek (right) and Jonathan Grajeda (left). (Photo by Ron Barry)