

THREE-PEAT! CROCKETT WINS THIRD STRAIGHT REGION CROWN; HOST SECTIONAL SATURDAY



Above: When you score the game's first goal from right in front of the camera man, the resulting smile appears larger than normal. Luke Carter -- as he has done so often this season -- put Crockett on the scoreboard first against Dyersburg Thursday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

"We just need to keep our eyes on the prize." -- Luke Carter

"We're right where we wanted to be. Nobody's hurt; we have a home game; and a win puts us back in the State." -- Chris Cerda

"We're playing well. We're healthy. The USJ game showed us we can be beaten, but the last ten minutes also showed us that we can come back even when we're down. So if we play together, we can accomplish great things." -- Edgar Juarez

"I'm just ready to play somebody other than Dyersburg." -- Coach Stan Jamscek

Only half joking, Jamscek was both celebratory and restrained after his Crockett County soccer team hammered Dyersburg for the third time this season, downing the Trojans 6-1 to claim the Cavaliers' third consecutive Region 7-AA Tournament championship Thursday night.

The three-peat victory puts Crockett back on its home turf for a West Sectional game Saturday against Munford for a berth in the TSSAA State Tournament. The loser ends its season. Saturday's game time is tentatively scheduled for 11:00 a.m., but is dependent on the high school being able to complete its graduation ceremony Friday night despite forecasted rainy weather. If the graduation is pushed back until Saturday morning, the soccer Sectional will be played in the afternoon.

While Jamscek feels his team is ready for its Sectional foe, he also acknowledges that Thursday's triumph was not as efficient as he would have preferred.

"It's hard to play the same team three times in a season and stay completely focused," he said, "so I'll just chalk it up to that. But we need to be able to control the ball better than we did tonight. It got a little sloppy; we were trying to make longer passes than usual. That's not going to work down the road if we get into the State, so I would have liked to see us use shorter passes and maintain control better. But maybe seeing a different team than Dyersburg is all it will take to snap us back into focus."

The Cavs needed less than eight minutes to get on the scoreboard Thursday when Carter created a breakaway on a feed from Cerda and punched in the game's first goal with 32:41 still left on the first-half clock. It was his 28th tally of the year in just 17 games (Crockett is now 16-1).

Dyersburg -- one of West Tennessee's best programs for a while -- put up a stronger fight this time, deadlocking the match at 1-1 when Nick Medlin converted a penalty kick just under the diving arms of Cav goalkeeper Noah Mayfield with 21:21 remaining before intermission.

That goal served to snap Crockett back into focus quickly. Less than three minutes later, Eddy De La Rosa fielded a Cerda pass and belted it home from the right-center of the box to make it 2-1, and less than two minutes after that, Juarez received a Carter assist and poked a shot into the net practically from his backside to give the hosts a 3-1 edge that stood until halftime.

The Cavs all but put the game away with 35:41 to play when Juarez, on a free kick, lifted a high pass to Cerda near the right post. After scuffling with a Trojan defender briefly to control it, Cerda knocked it into the netting with a slide shot, and Crockett held a 4-1 lead.

Jamscek began substituting freely at that point, mixing players in and out in various combinations -- and with 12:44 to go in the contest, Adrian Calderon nailed his first goal of the season on a rebounded save following a rocket shot from Angel Garcia.

Then, at the 5:28 to go mark, Mason Wood recorded his first assist of the year when he found a streaking Juarez with a carefully steered crossing pass, and the senior captain ripped it in from near the left post.

Crockett will now take on Munford, a team it defeated 6-0 in the Huntingdon tournament earlier this season. Munford fell to Millington 2-0 in the Region 8-AA championship game.

"It's another game against a team we've seen before," Jamscek said. "I'm sure our guys will be ready. When it's a win-or-go-home game, that tends to sharpen the focus a little bit."

Through their 17 games this season, here are the statistical totals for Crockett players:

GOALS -- Luke Carter 28, Christopher Cerda 23, Edgar Juarez 19, Eddy De La Rosa 11, Braulio Marquez 9, Angel Garcia 4, Leo Arreola 3, Angel Martinez 1, Adrian Calderon 1, Jathen Young 1, Mason Wood 1;

ASSISTS -- Braulio Marquez 18, Edgar Juarez 17, Christopher Cerda 15, Luke Carter 9, Angel Garcia 7, Eddy De La Rosa 4, Ozzi Sanchez 3, Adrian Calderon 1, Santiago Santos 1, Max Utley 1, Leo Arreola 1, Eduardo Galvez 1, Camden Martin 1, Mason Wood 1, Noah Mayfield



Above: After the Trojans had tied it up at 1-1 on a penalty kick, Eddy De La Rosa put the Cavs in front to stay with this thunderous boot on a Chris Cerda pass for Crockett's second goal. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Coach Stan Jamscek gives halftime instruction to his team, which held a 3-1 lead. Listening in (from left) are goalkeeper Noah Mayfield, Max Utley (5), Eddy De La Rosa, and Josue Martinez. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Braulio Marquez almost scored early in the second half on this goal box rush, but was squelched when the Trojan goalkeeper barely got his feet to the ball first. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: He may look like he's lying down on the job, but that's just the position Edgar Juarez ended up in after poking in the Cavs' third goal on a Luke Carter assist ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... and then jumping to his feet to accept congratulations from Eddy De La Rosa (2) and Luke Carter (1). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Daniel Grajeda and his defensive teammates did their usual standout job of making it difficult for Dyersburg to get off many decent shots. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Crockett's Camden Martin (13) tries to work a ball in toward the goal box from the left sideline. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Chris Cerda all but put the game away for Crockett when he fielded a high pass from Edgar Juarez and slid the ball past an onrushing goalkeeper (in pink) and four Dyersburg defenders. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Sometimes just being in the right place at the right time brings dividends. Crockett's Angel Garcia (background) launches a long but powerful shot toward the Dyersburg goal as teammates Adrian Calderon (right front) streaks in ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: ... and sees that Garcia's shot was kicked so hard that the Trojan goalkeeper could stop it, but not catch it. Calderon ran in and booted the ball again before the netminder could reach the rebound, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... and watches it sail into the net to put Crockett ahead 5-1 and give Calderon his very first goal of the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Adrian Calderon turns to check the official and the scoreboard to make sure his first goal of the year counts ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... and then is quickly congratulated by Cav teammates Ozzi Sanchez (12), Braulio Marquez, and Brandon Carcamo (14). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Later in the half, Mason Wood saw Edgar Juarez racing toward the goal from the left side and fed him this pass, which ended up being Wood's first official assist after Juarez rammed a shot home for his second goal of the game. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: A major reason Dyersburg only scored once was the play of freshman goalkeeper Noah Mayfield, who brilliantly swatted away this Trojan header on a corner kick to keep the opponents off the board again. Angel Martinez, Edgar Juarez, and Daniel Grajeda (6) are back to assist. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Edgar Juarez circles around the netting after nailing Crockett's final goal in the 6-1 region championship victory, the team's third straight. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Chris Cerda posted a goal (his 23rd) and two assists to help the Cavs to a third consecutive region championship and a berth in Saturday's Sectional. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: The scoreboard in the background tells the story as Crockett players rejoice around their championship plaque while Coach Stan Jamscek records the celebration on his phone for posterity. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Your Region 7-AA Tournament champions -- the Crockett County Cavaliers -- with a THREE-PEAT! (Photo by Ron Barry)

