

WAS IT "MEET THE CAVS" OR "HEAT THE CAVS?"; ATHLETIC SEASON OFFICIALLY BEGINS



Above: Cav freshman George Randall rips a drive as Dyer County's Jarrett Harrison looks on. Randall matched Jack Shaver's 40 for low Crockett score in Tuesday's opening match. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Rachel Crossnoe (left) and Addalynn Dunn comprise the Lady Cavaliers' golf duo this season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Sophomore Jack Shaver laces a drive early in his round Tuesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

With the temperature hovering at 97 degrees and the heat index dancing on the edge of the TSSAA's allowable limit, Crockett County's athletic season officially began Tuesday when the Cavalier golf teams hosted their first matches of Fall 2024.

"Fall," of course, is a misnomer. August in West Tennessee is as close to "fall" as the Olympics are to backyard badminton. Nevertheless, the Cav linksters teed it up against Dyer County and Jackson North Side Tuesday afternoon at the Crockett Golf & Country Club, trying to time their swings in between the gobs of sweat dripping into their eyes.

For the record, Crockett's boys –with several players competing in a varsity match for the very first time – gave the Choctaws a competitive match before falling 171 to 179, but also chalked up a win over North Side by fielding a complete team while the visitors had just three participants. All of the Cav scorers shot lower than the Indian trio anyway. Dyer County's girls captured a match win over Crockett 87 to 107 as each school used two scores.

Following the afternoon golf outing, it was over to Cavalier Stadium for the annual "Meet the Cavs" night – and the person with the best idea of coping with the stifling heat was girls basketball assistant coach Brent Fronabarger, who offered himself up as a dunk tank "target" and thereby was frequently falling into a large tub of refreshing water as several baseball players jumped at the chance to soak their former field general.

Several of the Cavalier teams had organized games to play and engaged as many community members as possible, but it was so hot that most fans were ready for the team introductions and then a race to their cars to start up the air conditioning. All the Crockett sports teams were honored, along with the Marching Cavaliers Band.

Before that, however, Coach Chris Eubanks' golfers accounted themselves well despite some first-match jitters. With only sophomore Jack Shaver having much match experience, Eubanks and assistant coach Pate Randall knew this season would be a learning curve for their freshmen-laden squad – but both also feel that as these players get some course time under their belts, they could eventually become a solid lineup.

Shaver and freshman George Randall both shot first-match scores of 40, just a few strokes behind medalist Jarrett Harrison of Dyer County (37) and runner-up Seth LaRue (39). Another Cav freshman, Max Woods, matched the Choctaws' third-best score (Dalton Muncrief's 46). Tritt Moore and Clay Kail each shot 53 for the Cavs' fourth counting score, while Cooper Criswell carded a 49 for Dyer County.

Crockett's girls – Rachel Crossnoe and newcomer Addalynn Dunn – posted rounds of 51 and 56, respectively. They were topped by the Lady Choctaws' Kennedy Hill (38) and Josie Ferguson (49). North Side did not field a female entry. Next up for Crockett is the annual high school FCA Tournament at the Jackson Country Club on Monday at 9:00 a.m.

Following are a few photos from the golf match and then a collection of scenes from "Meet the Cavs"...



Above: Former Cav baseball coach Brent Fronabarger can "talk a little trash" if he has to -- such as taunting the current players that they can't hit the target on his "Meet the Cavs" dunk tank set-up... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... and one of the primary recipients of the insults was his son Brady, a pitcher and first baseman for Crockett, who then rose to the occasion... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: ... and promptly deposited his Dad into the tub with an on-target toss. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: While the elder Fronabarger may have feigned disappointment at being dunked, he was the only person staying cool at "Meet the Cavs," which was held on a sweltering 97-degree evening. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Following are a variety of other sights from the "Meet the Cavs" event, featuring players and coaches from every Crockett sports team and marching band... (Photo by Ron Barry)







