

# CCMS SOCCER IS DEFINITELY FEEDING THE FUTURE LADY CAV PROGRAM



**Above:** Isabella Aguirre readies for another attack against the Crockett defense. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Caroline Scruggs, seen here dribbling alongside teammate Ruth Gourley (3), scored one of the Lady Cav goals to help account for the 2-0 margin of victory against McNairy Saturday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

Carli Branson has spent much of the past decade trying to build a highly competitive soccer program for Crockett County High School.

Her hard work has certainly paid off in the boys program, with a recent trip to the TSSAA State Tournament and a near-miss last season when the team lost a shootout in the West Sectional to Munford.

Branson – on a year’s sabbatical from actually coaching that squad, taking some time off to raise three small children – is back on the pitch for the 2024-25 school year, although the boys season in the spring will be under the direction of new head coach Joey Soriano, with Branson assisting. Those roles are currently reversed this fall, as Brandon leads the Lady Cavaliers with Soriano (and Jennie Agee) assisting.

The girls program hasn’t quite matched the success level attained by the boys, but it continues to get better as the Lady Cavs are off to a solid start this fall. But what heightens the prospects for the program’s future is the work being put in by the Crockett County Middle School girls thus far.

Coached by Doug Wede, assisted by his wife Jenny and Mary Kate Gourley – whose daughter Kate was one of CCHS’s brightest recent stars, and whose daughter Ruth is a current middle school player – the younger Lady Cavaliers took a giant step toward West Tennessee credibility Saturday by recording a 2-0 victory over McNairy Middle School, the top team in the South Bracket of the upcoming district tournament.

“We made a huge defensive stand against a heavy attack thrown at us,” Wede said after Saturday’s contest, played in the rain spawned by the lingering effects of Hurricane Francine. The Wedes’ daughter Hannah – the Crockett goalkeeper – stopped 10 “slippery and tricky shots in the rain and wind,” earning the squad’s DAWG Award for the game.

“This gives us momentum going into our final four games,” Doug Wede said. Two are district duels: today (Monday) at home vs. Obion County, and next Tuesday (Sept. 24) against South Gibson. The Lady Cavs managed 11 shots of their own on goal against McNairy, with two of them – by Kamilah Juarez and Caroline Scruggs – making their way into the netting.

Crockett has received consistent play all season from Juarez, Scruggs, Gourley, Wede, Catherine Scruggs, Marley Thornton, Charlee Lewis, Amy Mena, Kalynn Lewis, Caleigh Howell, Aime Aguillar, Nataly Amador, Isabella Aguirre, Zamaria Edwards, Olivia Barger, Soleil Markgraf, Evelyn Doyle, Mia Gipson, Evelyn Calderon, Kamila Combata, Valerie Ponce, Jaydah Frye, and Presley Bray.

With their continued development, Crockett County’s future on the pitch is extremely bright.



**Above:** Isabella Aguirre, here inbound a pass in a recent game, is a key member of Crockett’s imposing defense. (Photo by Ron Barry)





**Above:** Nataly Amador is another key performer for the CCMS squad. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Marley Thornton (10) also helps protect the backfield for the Lady Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Goalkeeper Hannah Wede receives the team's DAWG Award for posting a clean sheet (a soccer shutout) in the triumph over McNairy. (Photo by Jenny Wede)