

LADY CAV RUNNERS SPARKLE IN LEXINGTON; VOLLEYBALL TEAM SWEEPS RIPLEY



Above: Aidan Klonowski also had a Top 50 finish for Crockett to help the team place tenth out of the 27 schools that put entries in the race. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett County's Claire Evans -- with teammate Avery Thornton right behind her -- tries to get ahead of the pack at the start of Thursday's Lexington Invitational cross-country meet at the Lexington Soccer Complex. Both Evans and Thornton earned medals for placing in the Top 20 out of the 97-runner field. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

93-degree heat: daunting.

3.1 miles on foot: daunting.

Running 3.1 miles in 93-degree heat: daunting squared.

Despite the elements Thursday afternoon, the Lady Cavalier cross-country team of Coach Julie Nass pulled off a third-place finish out of the 25 teams that placed entries in the Lexington Invitational to highlight the day's sports action for Crockett County teams.

Nass's boys team managed a tenth-place finish as well out of the 27 squads that placed entries in the day's second 5K race at the Lexington Soccer Complex to get the cross-country season off to a very satisfying start for Crockett.

Meanwhile, Crockett's volleyball team rolled on, sweeping past host Ripley 3-0 to move to 10-2 on the season; the Cavalier boys golf team finished in a dead heat (178-178) with Lexington at Pine Tree Country Club, while the girls dropped a close 100-106 match with the Lady Tigers; and the CCMS softball team fell victim to a seven-run second inning in a 9-5 defeat on the road in Huntingdon.

Friday's lone Crockett sports contest is the 7 p.m. high school football matchup at Lexington, in which Coach Kevin Ward's Cavaliers will be trying to win their third consecutive game to open the 2024 campaign.

CROSS-COUNTRY: Claire Evans and Avery Thornton earned medals for Top 20 finishes and the rest of the Lady Cavs bunched their placements close enough to gain the third position overall as the CCHS runners sparkled in Lexington, despite conditions that were definitely not conducive to a long run.

"I think the heat was a little surprising," Nass said, "but then again, it would have surprised everyone else too. For the opening meet of the season, I have to say I'm very pleased. We've been battling some ankle injuries, but we have kids that want to get out there and run, and they showed a lot of determination today."

Evans finished 16th and Thornton 18th to key Crockett's team score, which trailed only powerhouse Obion County and Dresden in the final standings. Alivia Hale was 51st for the Lady Cavs, with Harmony Walker 53rd, Ashley Boone 57th, Olivia Mann 58th, Kate Davis 79th, and Millie Laster 91st.

Evans and Thornton broke to the front of the pack together at the start of the race and tried to stay as close together as possible, a strategy that Evans said helps them both.

"If we can get out early together and maintain that closeness throughout the race, I feel like Avery pushes me to do better and I push her to do better," she said.

Evans said she knew the heat would factor in, but that she tries not to change her race plan too much.

"I try not to think about it, but I know I'll occasionally find myself looking at the ground for too long, which is when I notice I'm more tired," she said. "So I try to look up and find a spot further on down the course and tell myself to just get there. When I do, I pick out another spot. I just keep telling myself 'more' each time, so it helps me get from point to point."

Chester County's Bella Lamb won the girls race by 16 seconds over Westview's Alaina Uselton.

In the boys event, Nass was excited that Lane Foster and Aidan Klonowski posted Top 50 finishes in the field of 175 runners. Foster placed 28th in one of his best runs ever, with Klonowski coming in 48th. Hutson Stephens was 74th, Leck Lucky 87th, Mase Utley 104th, and Zaul Sanchez 107th to help the team earn the tenth overall position.

Westview's Jack Mantooh covered the 5K in 16:37.70 to obliterate the competition, concluding 24 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Adam Zukowski of Lexington.

Crockett's teams will compete in the Huntingdon Invitational next Tuesday at 4:30.

GIRLS TEAM RESULTS: 1. Obion County 26; 2. Dresden 55; 3. Crockett County 100; 4. Hardin County 109; 5. Huntingdon 110; 6. Lexington 117. Other teams with entries: Chester County, Westview, USJ, Greenfield, Hollow Rock/Bruceton, Union City, Augustine, TCA, McNairy Central, Bradford, Madison Academic, Henry County, Dyersburg, South Gibson, Scotts Hill, WTHERA, Fayette-Ware, Milan, and Brighton.

Individuals: 1. Bella Lamb, Chester Co (21:29.08); 2. Alaina Uselton, Westview (21:46.68); 3. Emeri Lee, Obion (21:58.87); 4. Klicey Campbell, Obion; 5. Addyson Kirkland, USJ; 6. Brenley Little, Greenfield; 7. Bailey Warthington, Dresden; 8. Halle Trevathan, Westview; 9. Lily Pash, Dresden; 10. Madison Holder, HR/B; 16. Claire Evans, Crockett (24:28.38); 18. Avery Thornton, Crockett (24:30.80); 51. Alivia Hale, Crockett (29:44.58); 53. Harmony Walker, Crockett (30:05.73); 57. Ashley Boone, Crockett (30:46.56); 58. Olivia Mann, Crockett (30:47.38); 79. Kate Davis, Crockett (35:18.63); 91. Millie Laster, Crockett (39:38.66. Total runners: 97.

BOYS TEAM RESULTS: 1. Madison Academic 58; 2. Huntingdon 81; 3. Lexington 103; 4. Chester County 122; 5. Dresden 124; 6. Hardin County 145; 7. South Gibson 167; 8. Westview 238; 9. Obion County 259; 10. Crockett County 262; 11. TCA 293; 12. Henry County 295; 13. Milan 337; 14. Brighton 392; 15. McNairy Central 425. Other teams with entries: Greenfield, Adamsville, South Fulton, Union City, JCS, Dyersburg, Fayette-Ware, USJ, Haywood, WTHERA, Scotts Hill, and Hollow Rock/Bruceton.

Individuals: 1. Jack Mantooh, Westview (16:37.70); 2. Adam Zukowski, Lexington (17:01.67); 3. Blaine Todd, Huntingdon (17:12.49); 4. Logan Baker, Madison; 5. Jonathan Lewis, SGC; 6. Silas McManus, Chester County; 7. Zach Bassham, Lexington; 8. Deegan Arant, Greenfield; 9. Caleb Santosh, Madison; 10. Jon Graves, SGC; 28. Lane Foster, Crockett (20:02.03); 48. Aidan Klonowski, Crockett (21:14.72); 74. Hutson Stephens, Crockett (22:25.01); 87. Leck Lucky, Crockett (23:30.40); 104. Mase Utley, Crockett (24:46.34); 107. Zaul Sanchez, Crockett (25:02.58). Total runners: 175.

VOLLEYBALL: Crockett's Lady Cavaliers continued their highly successful ways, sweeping through Ripley in straight sets, winning their fourth consecutive match after a defeat in bracket play at the prestigious Memphis Spartan Tournament. Coach Andrew Laman's club is 10-2 and has a home match next Tuesday evening.



Above: Freshman Alivia Hale turned in a solid run as Crockett's third-best finisher, placing 51st overall and helping the squad to a third-place trophy out of the 25 teams represented. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Ashley Boone and Olivia Mann tried to stay as close together as possible throughout the race and finished within a second of each other to boost the Lady Cav team score. (Photo by Ron Barry)

GOLF: Jack Shaver carded a 41 and Max Woods a 43, but Crockett finished in a tie with host Lexington when each team's four low scores totaled 178. George Randall and Tyler Rathbun closed out the Cavalier scoring with matching 47s, while Lexington had two players with 39s and two others with 50s.

For Crockett's girls, Rachel Crossnoe posted a 48 and Addalynn Dunn a 58, but their 106 combined score could not match the 45 and 55 recorded by the Lady Tigers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL: Coach Duke Kail's club had their two-game winning streak snapped when Huntingdon jumped on the Lady Cavs for nine runs in the first two frames and then held on for a 9-5 triumph.

Lily Cole was 3-for-3 with a triple, two runs scored, and one batted in for Crockett, which also received three RBIs from Ariana Mosier. Haley Leforgee reached base three times for Crockett with a single and two walks, and also scored twice and drove home a run. The Lady Cavs host Gibson County next Tuesday at 5:00.



Above: Lane Foster, leading a Huntingdon runner as he heads for the finishing stretch, produced one of his best races to lead Crockett's boys to a tenth-place team finish and took 28th in the individual contest, out of 175 runners. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett's Hutson Stephens heads a pack of runners approaching the final sprint on his way to a solid finish for the Cavaliers. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Rachel Crossnoe carded a 48 Thursday at Pine Tree Country Club in Lexington, but the Lady Cavs were six strokes short in the team competition 100-106. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Approaching the first-mile mark, the strategy becomes apparent on a day when the temperature hit 93 degrees. The eventual winner -- Chester County's Bella Lamb -- is tucked right in behind leader Alaina Uselton of Westview, and most of those who finished in the Top 20 have already separated from the larger pack of runners. Crockett's Claire Evans is near the far right in this shot. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Sophomore Jack Shaver continues to be Crockett's medalist in golf events, shooting a 41 Thursday as the Cavs battled to a tie with host Lexington. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Max Woods shot a 43 at Lexington Thursday to be Crockett's second-best score on the way to a 178-178 team tie with the Tigers. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett's volleyball team moved to 10-2 at Ripley with a 3-0 sweep over the Lady Tigers. Pictured watching the tense recent home match with Dyersburg is manager Molly Ward. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Two frontline standouts in Crockett's excellent start have been Katherine West (left) and Jordyn Maddox (13), in a rotation with Dee Cole, Kylee Garrett, Keeton Holyfield, and Madi Collins. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: In a match with Halls, Crockett's Sadie Hoover (1) sets up middle hitter Keeton Holyfield (14) for the kill as Piper White (6) and Kylee Garrett (22) prepare for a possible return. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Ariana Mosier drove in three runs for CCMS Thursday at Huntingdon, but it wasn't enough as the Fillies posted a 9-5 win in middle school softball. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Crockett's footballers will need a lot of plays like this one -- a DK Woods takedown of Ripley quarterback Sammie Smith -- as Lexington figures to be a rude host Friday night at 7:00. (Photo by Ron Barry)