

CROCKETT VOLLEYBALL & SOCCER TEAMS SCORE BIG MONDAY WINS



Above: Cesia Sanchez (21) scored her first goal as a Lady Cavalier and also recorded an assist as Crockett blanked Obion County in a district soccer match Monday evening. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Above: With Crockett leading 25-24 in Set 2, this is the well-placed slam by Katherine West (3) that settled things. South Gibson couldn't return it, and the Lady Cavaliers went on to a 3-0 sweep. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

Following a humbling Saturday journey to a prestigious volleyball tournament in Oxford, Mississippi, Crockett County's Lady Cavaliers displayed a bit of improvement Monday night from the lessons learned there.

Meanwhile, a road trip to Troy for a match with a district opponent provided an opportunity for Crockett's soccer squad to flex its "depth" muscles Monday, showcasing several girls who continue to improve in reserve roles.

Together, it meant a 3-0 sweep for the volleyball team at home over South Gibson, and a 6-0 pummeling of Obion County for the soccer club.

CCHS VOLLEYBALL: The Lady Cavs traveled to Oxford Saturday and lost four of the six matches they played in the tournament, but Coach Andrew Laman labeled the trip a success because "we played really good competition and we got better as a team – accomplishing our overall goal. I'd rather be 2-4 against quality teams and get better than go 6-0 against not-so-good teams that don't help you improve."

Upon returning home, Laman made a couple of lineup changes for Monday's duel with South Gibson, moving freshmen Wesley Thornton and Lakyn Forsythe more heavily into the main rotation, with senior Sadie Hoover taking over as the primary setter. All performed well as Crockett handled SGC 25-14, 26-24, and 25-15, coming from behind at the end of the second set on a serving run by Keeton Holyfield and well-placed kills by Dee Cole, Katherine West, Madi Collins, and Jordyn Maddox.

"We have a couple of days to practice with the new positioning now," Laman said, pointing to Thursday's road match with primary district nemesis Dyer County. The Lady Choctaws have several top-notch hitters, a trait not shared by South Gibson Monday night. "It will definitely be a different type of challenge than tonight," Laman said, "but the teams we played in Oxford definitely helped us prepare for Dyer County."

In Oxford, Crockett lost 2-0 to Madison-Ridgeland Academy, a team with a 24-2 record; 2-0 to Northwest Rankin; 2-0 to host Oxford; and 2-0 to Belmont. The Lady Cavs defeated West Lauderdale 2-0 and St. Andrews 2-1.

"We were competitive in a couple of the matches we lost," Laman said. "We had late leads, but couldn't stop their service runs. But it made us better, so we'll see where we are Thursday."

CCHS SOCCER: Coach Carli Branson was ecstatic over the performance of her Lady Cavaliers at Obion, as six different players scored goals, another added a couple of assists, and goalkeeper Amaria Walker posted another clean sheet (shutout).

Crockett, now 2-0 in district play and 6-1-1 overall, received goals from Nyah Cathey, Chloe Campbell, Cesia Sanchez, Kate Davis, Emme Grace Martin, and Braniya Green. Rebecca Waddey passed for two assists, and Cathey and Sanchez each had one. The fact that so many different players contributed is what created most of Branson's satisfaction.

"These stats show the hard work and determination of the girls coming off the bench," she said. "It shows girls who have put in countless hours at, and away from, practice to get on the field and tonight earned their way into the stat book. This doesn't only show our depth of talent as a team, but the girls' dedication to creating a successful program for this season and the future."

Branson and assistant coach Joey Soriano also cited the play of several others who played well. Alivia Hale and Avery Thornton almost scored goals and created several opportunities for their teammates; Skyleigh Qualls helped shut down the middle of the field and had solid stops on the wing defensively; Elany Miguel helped on the defensive line, using her awareness of shifting on the field to close gaps and create opportunities for her midfield wings; and Anahy De La Rosa had multiple runs on the wing that resulted in beautiful crosses to the forwards and midfielders.

“We continue to grow as a team and it all starts at practice with the belief there is always room for improvement and growth,” Branson said. Thursday the Lady Cavs travel to Lexington to face the Lady Tigers at 6 p.m.



Left: Crockett's Keeton Holyfield (14) was all over this block for the Lady Cavs, stuffing it back on the South Gibson side for a big point in the Set 2 comeback win Monday night in Alamo. Lakyn Forsythe (34) and Jordyn Maddox (13) were ready if the ball had come back over. (Photo by Ron Barry)

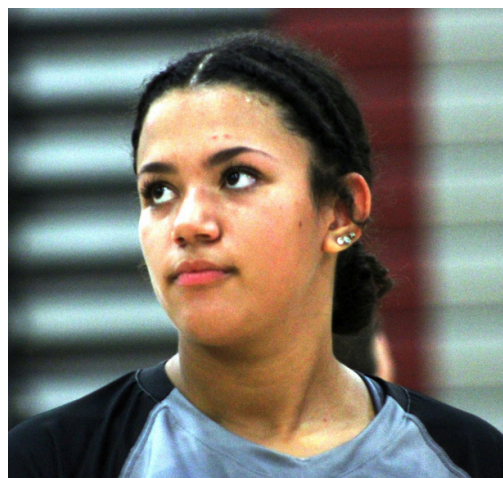
Below: Not everything went Crockett's way on the volleyball court Monday. On this play, despite an initial full-extension "double dig" by Piper White and Brennan Morris, Katherine West also hit the deck in an effort to get the ball over the net, but to no avail. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett senior Sadie Hoover moved to the primary setter position Monday night and was highly effective in varying the Lady Cavs' means of attack. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Madi Collins got way up to smash this point home as Lady Cav teammates (from left) Brennan Morris (11), Wesley Thornton, Piper White, and Sadie Hoover move in to back her up. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Lady Cav hitter Dee Cole casts a suspicious glance up at the chair official after a call went against Crockett, which improved its overall record to 14-6. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Jordyn Maddox (13) and Katherine West (3) celebrate together after consecutive kills gave the Lady Cavs a Set 2 victory Monday night against South Gibson. Joining in the fun are Keeton Holyfield (left), Brennan Morris (11), Madi Collins (16), and Lakyn Forsythe (right). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Sadie Hoover appears to be setting the FSS Ventures logo for Katherine West to spike as Kylee Garrett (between them) looks on in Monday night's triumph over SGC. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Chloe Campbell (left) got on the scoreboard for Crockett at Obion County, netting a shot for the Lady Cavaliers, who improved to 6-1-1 for the season. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Below: Emme Grace Martin (3) was another goal-scorer for Coach Carli Branson's Lady Cav soccer squad Monday at Obion County. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Left: Crockett's Rebecca Waddey, stopping a pass with her chest here, assisted on two goals for the Lady Cavs, who won their second district game without a loss. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: Carley Lampley dribbles toward the open part of the pitch to try to set up an offensive attack in Crockett's game at Obion County. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Above: Crockett's Crista Martinez (1) deflects this pass with her knee as teammate Kate Davis (19) -- who also scored a goal Monday -- gets ready to shift directions and head toward the net. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Left: Skyleigh Qualls delivered some important minutes of midfield play for the Lady Cavaliers in the district win over Obion County, earning the coaches' praise. (Photo by Robin Waddey)