

CAVALIERS TAKE OBION COUNTY OUT BEHIND THE "WOODS" SHED 45-9



Above: Amarion Hobson (4) and Demo Pickens share a word during a third-quarter timeout. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

If you search through the photo galleries of the 2024 Crockett County football season, you'll see a handful of shots from each game in which four or five guys are trying to drag down DK Woods.

Ironically, there weren't that many from Friday night's 45-9 romp over Obion County Central at Troy – largely because the Rebels weren't very successful in actually getting Woods to go down.

Crockett's sophomore running back bulldozed his way to four touchdowns, thundering for 161 yards on 17 carries and shedding tacklers as if his uniform was made of Teflon. And since it was Obion's homecoming game, Woods did them a favor and sent most of the fans home early.

The lopsided win – ignited from the opening kickoff, which Demo Pickens returned 79 yards for a score – was the Cavaliers' first region triumph and boosted their overall record to 5-2. Crockett is off this week for fall break, a major emphasis in Coach Kevin Ward's motivation for what remains.

"We are at the midway point of the season," Ward said. "Now, that's only true if we play at least 14 games. Since there are only 10 on the schedule, that means we have to make a deep run in the playoffs. So I'm giving the players this week off to rest, because I plan for us to play 14 or 15 games." The fifteenth contest would be for a TSSAA State Championship – so that's the inspiration.

"To get there, we have to do a better job with our tackling," Ward said. "This was a good bounce-back win for us after being so off against Dyer County. We got back to doing what we need to do to be successful, which is running the football. It's nice to have success throwing it every once in a while, but Crockett County football is the run game. We took some steps back toward that tonight."

Most of those steps were courtesy of Woods, who often requires a minimum of three defenders to get him on the ground. On Friday night in Troy, he had touchdown runs of nine, two, four, and 34 yards, and set them up with three other carries of 20+ yards. His offensive line repeatedly gave him large holes through which to gallop, and when Woods gets up some steam, you can expect some pinballing action from would-be tacklers. But while Woods was racking up the yardage on the ground with regularity, Crockett didn't totally abandon its passing game. Sophomore quarterback Ben Burgess completed half of his eight attempts for 103 yards, including a 31-yard touchdown toss to Pickens and a 44-yard gain on the only touch Deuce Greenhill got all night.

The Cavalier defense was steady after allowing the hosts to drive 65 yards for a score on their opening possession, with the touchdown coming on an 11-yard pass from Tucker Phelon to a leaping Jatlynn Mosley, who managed to pluck it away from the outstretched arms of Pickens. Pickens was actually in a decent position to make an end zone interception, but the taller receiver took advantage of the high throw.

Defensively for the game, Crockett limited Obion to 62 rushing yards on 30 carries; got an interception from Pickens later; forced an eight-yard punt when Squirt Pickens hurried the kicker; blocked a field goal just before the half; and had a fumble recovery by sophomore Grant Smallwood. Offensively, the Cavs scored on every possession they had except two.

And with 1:08 remaining before the halftime intermission, Avery Hurst even blasted a 40-yard field goal through the uprights, giving the visitors a comfortable 31-6 edge at the break. Hurst also nailed all six of his extra point tries, boomed his only punt 46 yards, and landed several of his kickoffs in the Obion end zone.

Crockett will return to action October 18 against Hardin County, which is currently 1-5. The Cavs' three remaining regular season encounters are all home games, with the final two – October 25 with Haywood and Halloween night vs. Fayette-Ware – also being region contests.

Final Statistics

Rushes-Yards: CC – DK Woods 17-161, Ben Burgess 4-28, Gabe Dupree 5-27, DJ Forrest 2-0, **Team 28-216. OC** – Tucker Moore 16-44, Jatlynn Mosley 2-11, Tucker Phelon 12-7, **Team 30-62.**

Passing (Comp-Att-Yds-Int): CC – Burgess 4-8-103-0. **OC** – Phelon 13-25-162-1.

Receptions-Yards: CC – Demo Pickens 2-55-1 TD, Deuce Greenhill 1-44, Gabe Dupree 1-4. **OC** – Morgan Carpenter 4-56, Mosley 3-49, Bryson Underwood 3-43, Moore 1-13, Tae Stallings 2-8.

Interceptions: CC – Demo Pickens 1-0. **OC** – None.

Kickoff Returns-Yards: CC – Demo Pickens 1-79-1 TD, Team 1-79-1 TD. **OC** – Underwood 3-80, Blayze Cannon 1-18, **Team 4-98. Punt Returns-Yards: CC** – None. **OC** – Carpenter 1-9.

Total Scrimmage Plays-Yards: CC 36-319, **OC** 55-224.

First Downs: CC 11, OC 12.

Fumbles-Lost: CC 1-1, OC 3-1.

Penalties-Yards: CC 5-45, OC 6-33.

Punts-Yards: CC – Avery Hurst 1-46-46.0. **OC** – Briley Bridgeman 3-71-23.7.

Points (TD-2PC-XP-FG-P): Woods 4-0-0-0-24, **Demo Pickens** 2-0-0-0-12, **Hurst** 0-0-6-1-9, **Team 6-0-6-1-45. OC** – 1-0-0-1-9.

Season Statistics (Record: 5-2; Region 1-1)

Rushes-Yards: CC - DK Woods 105-636, Deuce Greenhill 35-360, Gabe Dupree 19-65, Demo Pickens 11-56, Amarion Hobson 7-13, Dre Walker 2-9, DJ Forrest 2-0, Ben Burgess 53-(-33), **Team 234-1,106. Opponents 252-1,267.**

Passing (Comp-Att-Yds-Int): CC - Burgess 52-93-885-5. **Opponents 55-100-663-9.**

Receptions-Yards: CC - Greenhill 18-415-3 TD, Dre Walker 15-298-1 TD, Demo Pickens 11-127-2 TD, DK Woods 3-14, Squirt Pickens 1-10, Karsen Burgess 1-8, Brody Parlow 1-7, Dupree 1-4, Amarion Hobson 1-2, **Team 52-885. Opponents 55-663.**

Interceptions: CC - Demo Pickens 3-49, Dupree 1-55-1 TD, Woods 1-12, Walker 1-10, Randle Perry 1-8, Greenhill 1-0, Ian Greenberg 1-0, **Team 9-134-1 TD. Opponents 5-106-1 TD.**

Kickoff Returns-Yards: CC - Demo Pickens 10-294-1 TD, Squirt Pickens 6-114, Luke Beard 1-8, **Team 17-416-1 TD. Opponents 17-439-1 TD.**

Punt Returns-Yards: CC - Demo Pickens 7-103, **Team 7-103. Opponents 8-77.**

Total Scrimmage Plays-Yards: CC 325-1,991. Opponents 353-1,930.

First Downs: CC 63, Opponents 81.

Fumbles-Lost: CC 13-4, Opponents 21-9.

Penalties-Yards: CC 33-252, Opponents 53-388.

Punts-Yards: CC - Avery Hurst 17-652-38.4. **Opponents 22-748-34.0.**

Points (TD-2PC-XP-FG-P): Woods 11-0-0-0-66, Greenhill 7-0-0-0-42, Hurst 0-0-0-20-2-26, Demo Pickens 3-0-0-0-18, Burgess 2-0-0-0-12, Walker 1-1-0-0-8, **Team 24-1-20-2-172. Opponents 14-3-5-3-104**



Left: : The Cavalier cheerleaders went "old school" with Jay-Z inspiring their pre-game sign as the team lines up behind it to follow Crockett flag bearer for the evening George Goldsby. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: : Crockett's DK Woods (32) -- who's hard enough to tackle even if he had no blockers -- does even better when his teammates clear the way for him, as on this play. Boosting Woods' yardage are (from left) Austin Carroll (56), Travis Cork (72), Colton Mayo (52), and Randle Perry (50). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: : Demo Pickens (3) got the Cavalier party started early against Obion County Friday night, returning the game's opening kickoff 79 yards for a touchdown. Squirt Pickens (23 in white) provides the lead escort, while Nolen Turner (54) is prepared to take out anybody who gives chase from behind. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett kicker Avery Hurst (85) steers his 40-yard field goal through the uprights out of the hold by Kris Phillips (16) to give the Cavs a 31-6 halftime edge. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: : Is this getting to be a pre-game tradition? Senior cheerleader Melanie Meza is getting a boost from her teammates -- last week she was flying like a plane, and this week she's sitting as royalty. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: If you're a defender in the path of a power sweep by your opponent, sometimes the best you can do is force the ballcarrier to turn upfield, where a teammate may have a better shot at him. That's what Crockett did here, and when Obion's Bryson Underwood turned back toward the middle, Cavalier linebacker Austin Carroll (56) was there to stop him in his tracks -- with Nolen Turner (54) about to add the sandwich hit from behind. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: On this Crockett gang-tackle of Obion's Tucker Moore (33), Cav lineman Carson Bridger (on ground) has actually taken the ball away from Moore, although the officials didn't award possession to him. Aiding on the scrum are Amarion Hobson (4), Dre Walker (6), Joshua Simmons (78), Jake Knox (35), and Nolen Turner (54). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Amarion Hobson may be smallish in stature when compared to other football players, but when he hits you, you know you've been hit. Obion's Bryson Underwood (7) finds that out here, while Hobson's teammates Demo Pickens (3), Titus Luten (38), and Brody Parlow (5) arrive to finish the job on this kickoff return. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Quarterback Ben Burgess (10), with a bit of space created by blocker DK Woods (32), pump-fakes here a short pass in the flat, throwing off the defense ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: ... and then hurled a bomb to Deuce Greenhill (7), who picked up a gain of 44 yards on his only touch of the night. Burgess threw for 103 yards, including a 31-yard score to Demo Pickens. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: A familiar Friday night sight: DK Woods (32) dragging a hapless tackler who has him by the leg. That guy's not going to stop him, nor is the one Travis Cork (72) is about to take out with a block. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: When Obion quarterback Tucker Phelon (10) decided to keep the ball on this option play, he did not know Dre Walker (6) was about to throw him a huge welcome party. Walker invited Cav teammates Amarion Hobson (4), Carson Bridger (79), Jake Knox (35), Gabe Dupree (29), Nolen Turner (54), and Joshua Simmons (78) to join him. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jake Knox (35), Carson Bridger (79), Nolen Turner (54), and Joshua Simmons (78) combine to completely obscure an Obion ballcarrier, who could be compacted by the time the whistle sounds. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett back Gabe Dupree (29) cuts to his left to take advantage of blocks by Brooks Harris (73) and Brody Jones (11). Dupree gained 27 yards on five carries. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Grant Smallwood (77) and Brooks Harris (73) each have this Rebel runner by a leg, as if to soon make a wish, while Jake Knox (35) appears ready to take on an Obion guy who's twice his size. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Obion's lone touchdown came on this play, despite Crockett's Demo Pickens (3) having good positioning for a possible interception. But the ball was thrown high, and the taller Jatlynn Mosley (14) was able to corral it in the end zone. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Austin Carroll (56) delivers the first hit to Rebel quarterback Tucker Phelon (10) on this play. Several other Cavs are ready to join him. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: With regular flag man Gare Rawson out of town for a family wedding, George Goldsby did the honors for the Cavalier squad. (Photo by Ron Barry)