

# DYERSBURG STEAMROLLER FLATTENS LADY CAV HOOPERS; SOFTBALL, SOCCER WIN DEBUTS



**Above:** Jordyn Maddox, an All-District 13-AAA selection this season, distinguished herself as one of West Tennessee's top players, and led Crockett scorers with 17 points Monday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

Defending state champion Dyersburg is a marvelous collection of basketball talent.

And when the Lady Trojans get off to a good start – well, there are times in a game when they actually seem like they're toying with you a little bit.

Monday night was one of those times, and Dyersburg was eager to show a Region 7-AAA Tournament crowd that it hadn't forgotten that Crockett County was the only district team to beat it all season.

It was 13-0 Lady Trojans before the Lady Cavaliers even got on the board – a full four minutes into the game – and 22-3 by the end of the first quarter. The final was 57-30, largely because Dyersburg slowed its offense down a bit later in the game after netting seven three-pointers in the first half alone.

It was the second thumping the Lady Trojans have applied to Coach Kayla Irvin's club since the Lady Cavs stunned them in Alamo in their first meeting this season. Monday night's blitz ended Crockett's campaign with a highly respectable 22-8 record.

Monday also featured the official season openers for two Crockett spring sports, softball and boys soccer. The Lady Cav diamonds knocked off visiting Halls 6-2, and the Cavalier kickers blanked Jackson Central-Merry 4-0. More on those successful debuts later.

Back in Newbern – host of the Region 7-AAA hoop event – top seed Dyersburg hit its first two shots, both three-pointers, to get off-and-running against Crockett. Blessed with a full arsenal of gunners – six different Lady Trojans made threes – Dyersburg was never seriously threatened as it stormed its way to the championship final against South Gibson.

The Lady Cavs – who have been pretty successful from distance this season themselves – didn't make a single trey Monday night and only had four players to even find their way into the scoring column, led by persistent sophomore Jordyn Maddox with 17. Senior Karlee Castellaw notched seven in her final outing, while freshman Wesley Thornton muscled her way to four tallies. Halle Holyfield had Crockett's other two points.

Dyersburg was balanced, with Joya Crawford collecting 14, Chelby Jordan and Kaleigh Strayhorn 12 apiece, and Aeria Quinn seven. The Lady Trojans are now 25-4 heading into the duel with the Lady Hornets, who they edge 32-31 for the District 13-AAA Tournament title just last week.

## GIRLS – MARCH 3

**Crockett (30)** – Jordyn Maddox 17, Karlee Castellaw 7, Wesley Thornton 4, Halle Holyfield 2, Amaria Walker 0, Gabby Burse 0, Keeton Holyfield 0, Nyah Cathey 0, Chloe Adkisson 0, TEAM 10 FG, 10-12 FT. 3-Pointers: None. Record: 22-8.

**Dyersburg (57)** – Joya Crawford 14, Chelby Jordan 12, Kayleigh Strayhorn 12, Aeria Quinn 7, Kalli Maclin 4, Kathleen Harrell 3, Briana Parr 3, Elizabeth Lemons 2, Lily Kate Jones 0, Kaliyah Lewis 0, Dakaya Holder 0, TEAM 22 FG, 4-4 FT. 3-Pointers: Strayhorn 2, Jordan 2, Crawford 2, Harrell 1, Quinn 1, Parr 1. Record: 25-4.



**Above:** Crockett freshman Wesley Thornton, who came on strong for the Lady Cavs in the postseason, muscles in this off-hand basket despite the foul from Dyersburg's Briana Parr. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**SOFTBALL:** The Baron Jimmerson era began at CCHS as the new Lady Cav coach watched Piper White and Carmen Claybrooks spark the offense and Anna Stallings provide the pitching prowess in a 6-2 triumph over Halls.

Stallings struck out 11 and walked only one, effectively scattering eight hits in her complete game win.

Offensively, White went 3-for-3, scored four runs, stole three bases, and was hit by a pitch. The Texas A&M-bound senior was in on every rally in the four innings in which Crockett scored.

Claybrooks, Crockett's third-place hitter, also went 3-for-3 and drove in four runs as she debuted with a perfect day at the plate, singling home runs in the third and fifth frames before delivering a two-run hit in the sixth.

Freshman Maddie Haynes, hitting cleanup in her first varsity appearance, singled home a first-inning run after White had been hit by a pitch and then stole second and third. Hannah Carter drove in Crockett's other run with a fifth-frame groundout.

The Lady Cavs travel to Jackson Thursday at 5:00 to battle South Side in their next outing.



**Above:** Lady Cav senior Madison Solis has big shoes to fill this season, taking over the catching position from the graduated Lynden Cole, now playing at Pensacola State College in Florida. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**BOYS SOCCER:** With new head coach Joey Soriano sitting out because of a controversial red card he was given at the West Sectional at the end of the girls season, assistant Carli Branson led the Cavaliers to an opening shutout of JCM.

Crockett's first goal came when Angel Garcia curved in his own corner kick to stick it in the back of the net, but that was the lone tally of the initial half.

The Cav offense opened up a bit in the last 40 minutes as Chris Cerda took an assist out of the backfield from Max Utley to make it 2-0 and transfer student Aiden Markgraf hammered in a shot from the left side for a 3-0 edge. Cerda then closed out the scoring on a penalty kick after a JCM foul in the box.

Branson was highly complimentary of the visiting Cougars, who are in the first year of the school's soccer program.

"JCM was solid tonight and will be a contender in all their games," she said. "I'd love to watch them play again in about four games when it all starts to come together. They have some very good players."

Branson said the Crockett squad will get a good idea of where they stand in West Tennessee when they participate in the Arlington Ambush this coming weekend. The Cavs will face two state-ranked schools, #3 Christian Brothers and #8 Houston, along with Rossvie. Crockett plays at 3:00 Friday, 2:00 Saturday, and 5:00 Sunday.

The next home match is Tuesday (March 11) against Lexington at 6 p.m.



**Above:** Angel Garcia curved in his own corner kick to score the first goal of the season and ignite Crockett's 4-0 shutout of Jackson Central-Merry Monday evening in Alamo. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Chris Cerda netted two second-half goals for the Cavaliers to seal the 4-0 season-opening triumph over JCM Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Crockett sophomore Jordyn Maddox tries to line up a shot while senior teammate Amaria Walker screens off Dyersburg defender Chelby Jordan in Monday's Region 7-AAA Tournament game. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Senior Melanie Meza leads her cheer squad for the final time on a basketball court in Monday's loss to Dyersburg. Behind Meza (left to right) are Kaelyn Bonds, Gracie Gaines, Melony Arreola, and Leah Beard. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Lady Cav senior Karlee Castellaw is introduced in the starting lineup for the final time Monday night in Newbern before taking on Dyersburg in the Region 7-AAA Tournament semifinals. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Halle Holyfield is defended by Dyersburg's Kayleigh Strayhorn in Monday's Region 7-AAA Tournament game at Newbern. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Karlee Castellaw, another All-District 13-AAA pick for Crockett this season, keeps a hand in the face of Dyersburg's outstanding guard Joya Crawford in Monday's contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Amaria Walker looks to pass out of the post as Lady Trojan defender Kalli Maclin tries to seal the middle for Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Early and often, it was too much of this for Crockett to overcome: Chelby Jordan rising up for two points as Gabby Bursey can only look on from deeper in the lane. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** This team provided Crockett Countians with a lot of excitement and a 22-8 record this season, as well as representing the school with class and sportsmanship throughout the year. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Keeton Holyfield attempts to drive around the defense of Dyersburg's Kathleen Harrell in Monday's Region 7-AAA Tournament game in Newbern. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Piper White slides into third base ahead of the Halls tag for her second stolen base of the opening inning in Crockett's 6-2 win over the Lady Tigers Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Left:** Anna Stallings rocks and fires on her way to an 11-strikeout season debut in Monday's 6-2 win over Halls. Stallings walked just one in the complete-game victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Left fielder Carmen Claybrooks sparkled in her season debut, driving in four runs with a 3-for-3 performance Monday against Halls. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Noah Mayfield teamed with Alan Marquez to post the clean sheet (shutout) in goal Monday for Crockett soccer against JCM. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Baron Jimmerson gets ready to coach his first game as head mentor of the Lady Cavalier softball program Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Crockett right fielder Sadie Hoover races in to snare this bloop single on the first hop as center fielder Hannah Carter backs up the play in Monday's opener with Halls. (Photo by Ron Barry)