

CROCKETT DIAMONDERS DEBUT WITH A DOUBLE HEADER SWEEP FOR AUSTIN TAYLOR



Above: Crockett's Brady Fronabarger struck out nine of the 10 batters he faced Monday in a 7-0 win over McKenzie. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Perhaps even more significantly, the Crockett defense made just one error over the two games. Defensive miscues were one of the things that most plagued former head coach Brent Fronabarger in his final season last year.

Fronabarger, who is still a basketball assistant to Lady Cav head coach Kayla Irvin, is now concentrating his baseball involvement to providing two key cogs – his sons – to Taylor's arsenal of players for 2025. And in the opening game triumph, those sons – first baseman Brady and designated hitter Landry – played major roles.

Brady, a junior, was 2-for-2, walked twice, scored three runs, and stole four bases. Landry, just a freshman, was 2-for-3 and began his varsity career by singling home his older brother in his very first at-bat in the first inning.

Crockett jumped ahead in the win over Milan when Callan Willis walked, stole second, took third on a flyout by Reed Ingram, and scored on a passed ball. Brady Fronabarger then walked, took second when Carter Winders reached on an error, and came home on his younger brother's single.

Milan responded with an unearned run in the bottom of the first, but Crockett added two more tallies in the third. Landry Fronabarger lined a single to left and took second on a sacrifice bunt by George Randall, another Cav freshman. Sam Proctor singled to right to put runners on first and third, but then stole second. Bryson Vance plated a run with a groundout and then Mason Ray singled Proctor home for a 4-1 Crockett edge.

Milan got one back in the bottom of the frame on a bases-loaded single, but Winders pitched out of further trouble to hand off a 4-2 lead to reliever Tyler Rathbun for the fourth inning. Before Rathbun took the mound, Randall pushed across another Cav run with a sacrifice fly that scored Brady Fronabarger, who had doubled.

Crockett added two more in the top of the sixth. Brady Fronabarger led off with a single and stole second. Pinch-hitter Karson Kail drew a walk and Randall followed with a single to drive home the first run, with Kail advancing to third. The Cavs then executed a double steal, with Randall drawing a throw to second while Kail dashed for – and made it to – the plate before a return throw.

Crockett fittingly ended the game in the bottom of the sixth when Winders (now catching) picked off a Bulldog baserunner with a throw to first sacker Brady Fronabarger. The two were teammates on a national championship-winning travel team this past summer.

Winders allowed just one earned run and two hits in his three innings of work on the hill, striking out five. Rathbun went three scoreless innings and struck out four.

The strong pitching continued in the nightcap shutout of McKenzie. Brady Fronabarger faced just 10 batters in the three innings he threw, striking out nine of them – including the first seven – and issuing one walk. Ray and Vance each pitched two frames of two-hit ball to preserve the shutout.

Offensively in Game #2, Willis and Winders collected two hits apiece; Proctor, Landry Fronabarger, and Randall joined Willis with RBIs; and Garet Rawson and Preston Lambert added hits.

Crockett will face Peabody in Trenton Tuesday at 4:30 before returning to Alamo for the season's home opener Wednesday at 5:00 against Jackson South Side.

By Ron Barry

Austin Taylor spent his previous three springs coaching Crockett County Middle School baseball – and, in the last two, assisting with the high school team as well.

So when he took the field in Milan Monday for his first official games as head coach of CCHS, he was very familiar with the players who joined him there.

Crockett opened the 2025 baseball season at the Gibson County Tournament, downing host Milan 7-2 in its opener and then blanking McKenzie 7-0 in the doubleheader nightcap. The guys who are juniors now were his first group of middle schoolers, so transitioning to the new coach shouldn't be that great an adjustment for the Cavaliers.

And on Monday night, it wasn't. In the opening win over Milan, Crockett players stole 13 – count 'em – bases, providing an indication that the "rookie" mentor isn't afraid to take some chances. While scaling the steals down to two in the second game of the night, part of the reason was that McKenzie committed four errors to combine with the Cavs' nine hits.

MIDDLE SCHOOL TENNIS: Despite using first-year players in six matches, Coach Doug Wede's CCMS tennis team recorded a 9-5 triumph over Obion County, sparked by a "gutsy" tiebreaker singles victory by Charlee Lewis, who was competing in her first official contest ever.

Lewis won a 7-6 thriller and "was all over the court and would not be denied," according to Wede. "I am proud of all the first-year players," he said. "They are led well by the very few returning players from last year. We haven't had much time to prepare due to weather, but they still gritted out the win."

Crockett's winners in the match: Boys singles - Carson Craig (6-0), Davis Manning (6-1), and Logan Sammons (6-1); boys doubles - Craig & Manning (6-0); girls singles - Lewis (7-6); and girls doubles - Hannah Wede & Addison Milby (6-3).

The CCMS team will host Union City next Monday.



Above: Callan Willis stroked two hits and drove in a run against McKenzie and stole a couple of bases in the 7-2 victory over Milan. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Charlee Lewis -- pictured here during the fall soccer season -- turned her athletic talents to the tennis courts Monday, winning a 7-6 tiebreaker in her first competitive singles match ever for CCMS. (Photo by Ron Barry)