

TUESDAY HOME MATCH VS. LEXINGTON WILL SHOW IF SOCCER LESSONS WERE LEARNED



Rossville, a school which earned a TSSAA State Tournament berth a year ago and produced the state's Gatorade Player of the Year in Graham Duncan, scored two first-half goals by Luke Russell (17 and 21 minutes into the contest) but could manage no more as Crockett stiffened its defensive effort for the second straight day.

On Friday, Christian Brothers - ranked #3 in among Tennessee high school squads - "mercy-ruled" the Cavs 9-0. Saturday, with a much more competitive mindset and performance, Crockett fell to #8 Houston (of Memphis) 2-0, showing such an improvement that the referee who had worked both of the Cavs' games expressed that observation to the coaching staff.

Assistant coach Alex Taylor said of Saturday's contest, "Our team composure and togetherness was stronger today and allowed them to play for one another." Soriano moved some players around against Houston, and the defensive production was noticeably better - with goaltender Allan Marquez recording eight saves that assistant coach Carli Branson labeled as "spectacular."

On Sunday, it was more of the same against the outstanding Rossvie team. The Clarksville-based school, which had held Christian Brothers to a single goal in its match against the Purple Wave, managed the two Russell goals in the first half against Crockett, but couldn't net another one as Marquez and Noah Mayfield contributed six saves apiece and "our defensive line muscled up this weekend and held their own," according to Branson.

"When you get beat down like we did Friday," Branson said, "you have to decide how you're going to respond. I'd say they (the Cavs) had a pretty solid response. They chose to rise to the occasion. They chose to put their brothers first and play the game they love with passion, grit, and an unwavering determination to compete - something they did not do Friday."

While the record dropped to 1-3 Sunday - Crockett opened the season with a 4-0 win over Jackson Central-Merry - Branson added, "You don't become great unless you play great teams."

Tuesday night's home match with Lexington will provide the coaching staff a better idea of how the Cavs will perform against the teams who regularly appear on their schedule. It's set for a 6:00 start at Cavalier Stadium.

In other Crockett sports action coming up this week, the Cav baseballers open their season in the Gibson County Tournament, beginning with a 7 p.m. duel against McKenzie in Milan Monday night. The tennis team opens up at Lexington on Tuesday, while the softball team plays at home versus Munford the same day.

By Ron Barry

Now that they've apparently made the necessary repairs to their defensive approach, it's time for the Crockett County soccer team to generate a little bit of offense.

The Cavaliers completed their weekend Sunday at the Arlington Ambush - a gathering of the some of the best teams in the state of Tennessee - by dropping a 2-0 decision to powerful Rossville, but produced hope for the rest of the upcoming season with the manner in which they bounced back from an opening-round 9-0 drubbing at the hands of Christian Brothers.

Now it's on to Tuesday night against Lexington, when Coach Joey Soriano's club will find out if the lessons learned this past weekend translate into a much more determined and purposeful outlook for the Cavs.