

SOCCER BOYS OUTLAST MADISON 1-0; SOFTBALL GIRLS CRUSH HALLS 11-0 IN TUESDAY PLAY



Above: Luke Carter was the only player from either team to punch the ball into the net Tuesday as Crockett upended host Madison Academic 1-0 in a defensive struggle. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

Composure and resilience.

According to Crockett County assistant soccer coach Alex Taylor, those traits are the reasons the Cavaliers posted a gritty 1-0 victory over Madison Academic in Jackson Tuesday, improving their season mark to 5-3.

Madison always fields one of the more talented teams in West Tennessee, and this year's squad is no different. But Crockett goalkeeper Noah Mayfield and his competent defensive backfield kept the Jackson club from scoring even after being forced to play a man down for the match's final ten minutes after a red card was issued to the Cavs' Mason Wood.

Coach Joey Soriano's troops produced their lone goal with just 20 minutes remaining in the contest when the ball deflected off a Mustang defender and was punched into the net by junior Luke Carter. Shortly thereafter, Wood was whistled following a physical challenge for control of the ball, consistent with calls that were being made throughout the match.

"It was a gritty, physical match that saw nearly as many referee bookings as scoring opportunities," Taylor said afterward. "It was called in an incredibly strict and no-nonsense manner, with a whistle and foul for almost every contact by players on both sides. It's the type of match that could frustrate just about anyone, but our guys remained composed and resilient throughout all the missed scoring opportunities and the whistles."

The Cavs controlled and possessed the ball comfortably for almost the entire match, but couldn't get the ball into the net until Carter netted the late deflection. But after Wood's red card, which forced Crockett to play a man short for the remainder of the contest, the Cavs held off wave after wave of Madison attacks to keep the Mustangs off the scoreboard and secure the triumph.

"A 1-0 victory in a match like this feels just as remarkable as a 10-0 win in any other," Taylor said. "This team was pushed to the limit by nearly every aspect of the game and yet still found a way to win against a tough opponent. Our guys not only learned a great deal about what they're made of tonight (Tuesday), but most importantly, they learned what it takes to win matches like this: composure and resilience."

Mayfield made four saves in Crockett's goal to record the clean sheet for the winners, who defeated the talented Madison squad for the second straight season.

Crockett is scheduled to host South Gibson Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in a big district matchup for its next outing.

SOFTBALL: After a soggy layoff for more than a week, Coach Baron Jimmerson's Lady Cavaliers needed an inning or so to have their softball instincts kick back into gear.

Once they did – highlighted by an inside-the-park grand slam home run by senior speedster Piper White – Crockett was off and running to yet another "mercy rule" victory, blanking the host Halls Lady Tigers 11-0 in five innings Tuesday.

White drove in five runs overall, Wesley Thornton ripped a couple of doubles, and Anna Stallings tossed a three-hit shutout as the Lady Cavaliers – sidelined since March 31 by the torrential rains that doused West Tennessee last week – finally were able to get back on the field.

In improving their season record to 14-4, the Lady Cavs packed all their runs into two rallies, scoring six in the second and five in the fourth in support of Stallings, who struck out five and stranded both Halls runners who managed to reach third base.

Crockett jumped to a quick 1-0 lead in the top of the second on a bases-loaded single by catcher Madison Solis. With two outs and the sacks still jammed, White split a gap in left field with a line drive that scored Kiyra Liggins, Piper Smith, and courtesy runner Chloe Adkisson ahead of her as she quickly rounded all four bases herself.

Hannah Carter followed with a hard infield single, taking second on a throwing error on the play. Thornton then drilled a double to center, making it 6-0, Lady Cavs.

Solis got the visitors' second rally going in the fourth with a leadoff single to right. Adkisson again ran for her and took second on a wild pitch and third when Gabby Bursey was thrown out at second after hitting a single to short right field. White drove Adkisson home with a grounder that was mishandled for an error, allowing her to take second. Carter singled White home to make it 8-0 and then moved around to third when Thornton belted her second double to center.

Madison Stitts upped the margin to 10-0 with a two-run single to center and then eventually scored herself on another double by Liggins.

Thornton, Carter, Stitts, and Solis all collected two hits for Crockett. White, Carter, and Stitts each scored twice for the Lady Cavs. No Lady Tiger hitter reached base twice.

Jimmerson's club swings into district play Thursday, hosting Dyersburg at 5 p.m.



Above: The heady play of Daniel Grajeda (20) is one reason teams find it difficult to score against the Cavaliers. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: When Piper White slashes a ball to the left side, good things tend to happen for Crockett softball. Tuesday it was an inside-the-park grand slam as the Lady Cavs ripped Halls 11-0. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett senior catcher Madison Solis had a hand in both big rallies Tuesday, singling in the game's first run in the second inning and starting a five-run uprising with another single in the fourth. (Photo by Ron Barry)

