

FRESHMEN HITTERS IGNITE 13-3 SOFTBALL TRIUMPH OVER CHESTER COUNTY MONDAY



Above: Freshman infielder Wesley Thornton follows through with the swing that produced a titanic two-run homer in the second inning, giving Crockett a 5-2 lead over Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

The Lady Cav softball win took some of the day's sting out of what was going on over at the adjoining baseball field, where visiting Dyer County was hanging a five-inning, "mercy rule," 12-0 defeat on the Crockett diamonders in a key district matchup.

SOFTBALL: Stallings - who rarely gets knocked around by opponents - surrendered a solid single to Brentlee Burgess to begin the game and then was victimized by Whitman one out later with the two-run shot that pushed Chester County into the early lead. But the junior stalwart responded resiliently, allowing only a fourth-inning unearned tally after that in hurling a six-frame four-hitter.

In the meantime, her teammates were producing quite a bit of offensive support.

In the bottom of the first, Piper White beat out a bunt to lead off, and Hannah Carter reached on another one when the throw to first caromed off her shoulder, allowing White to get to third. After Carter stole second, Thornton lifted a pop fly to foul territory far enough beyond first base to become a sacrifice fly when it was caught, with no chance that the speedy White could be gunned down at home. Following a Madison Stitts walk, Emmalynn Medlin hit another sacrifice fly to center field, tying the game at 2-2. Crockett then took the lead when Kiyra Liggins smacked a pitch off the center-field fence in the air for a double, plating Stitts with the go-ahead run.

A two-out rally produced three more Lady Cav runs in the second. Following a line drive single off the pitcher's glove by Carter, Thornton blasted a ball some 30 to 40 feet beyond the left-center field fence, pushing the margin to 5-2.

After Stitts drew another base on balls and then stole second, Medlin chased her home with a line drive to left for a base hit.

Crockett added a tally in the third after a walk to Madison Solis. Courtesy runner Chloe Adkisson took second on a passed ball and then stole third, scoring on a wild pitch on the next offering.

The Eaglettes got that run back in the fourth on a Kymber Martin triple and subsequent error, but the Lady Cavs responded with another score in their half of the fourth. Medlin singled, Liggins walked, and Solis brought the run home with a fly-ball single just inside the right-field line.

Jimmerson's club really broke things open in the bottom of the fifth with a four-run uprising. White led off with a single to right and promptly stole second and third. Carter then laid down a sac bunt to get the first tally home and was safe at first on a fielder's choice. After Thornton and Stitts both reached on errors to load the bases, Medlin singled Carter home and reserve catcher Macie Teel laced a two-run, line-drive single to center to make it 12-3.

The Lady Cavs reached the run-rule limit with a final tally in the sixth when White again led off with a single, stole second, took third on an error, and scored on a wild pitch.

Medlin, just a freshman, went 3-for-3 and knocked in three runs for the winners. Thornton also had three RBIs, and White matched Medlin's three hits and, along with Carter and Stitts, scored three times. Liggins collected two hits and Teel had two 2 RBIs.

The 13-4 Lady Cavs will journey to Halls Thursday for a 5:30 duel with the Lady Tigers.

By Ron Barry

When Chester County's Ryan Whitman hammered a two-run homer in the top of the first inning off Lady Cavalier ace Anna Stallings, Crockett County fans weren't sure what the late afternoon held in store for the home team.

They felt a little better when Coach Baron Jimmerson's troops answered with a three-spot in the bottom of the frame.

They felt a whole lot better when, in the bottom of the second, freshman slugger Wesley Thornton tattooed a ball that landed somewhere near Trenton - okay, that's only a slight exaggeration - to give the hosts a 5-2 lead, and Crockett never looked back on its way to a six-inning, "mercy rule," 13-3 victory over the Eaglettes.

BASEBALL: Crockett’s on-again, off-again defense was off Monday – way off – committing nine errors to practically hand the game to the visiting Choctaws.

Seven of the nine runs scored against Cav starter Brady Fronabarger were unearned in his four innings, as were the three tallies notched against reliever Bryson Vance in his one frame of work. That the two Crockett hurlers combined for five walks didn’t aid the situation.

It wasn’t as if Dyer County pitcher Jack Smith needed the assistance. He tossed a one-hit shutout against the hosts, striking out three and issuing just a single base on balls. Smith needed just 56 pitches to sail through his five innings, finally yielding a hit to freshman George Randall in the fifth frame.

The two teams are scheduled to meet again Tuesday afternoon in Newbern. Crockett is 9-4 on the season and 2-1 in district play.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: Coach Jonathan Grajeda’s Cavaliers kept rolling Monday, blanking host Union City 9-0 as Damian Marquez led a seven-goal first-half attack with a hat trick.

CCMS, which faces Dyersburg Tuesday in a big district matchup, also received goals from Lucas Morales, Andy Aguirre, Caleb Ferguson, and Brendan Green in the explosive first half. Joseph Melendez and Andrew Pacheco netted tallies in the second half to provide the final 9-0 margin.

Henry Mayfield recorded two saves in goal for Crockett in the first half, and Jacob McGowan posted a save in the second half. Morales, Julian Carcamo, and Ferguson also had assists in the lopsided contest.

“We controlled the game from the beginning and never let up,” said assistant coach Graham Mayfield. “We subbed early, allowing our starters to get some rest for the Dyersburg game.”



Above: The Wesley Thornton home run trot is getting to be a familiar sight in West Tennessee softball circles. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Another freshman hitter, backup catcher Macie Teel, lined a two-run, bases-loaded single in the fifth for Crockett, capping a four-run rally Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Another freshman hitter, Emmalynn Medlin, went 3-for-3 Monday and drove in three runs against the Eaglettes. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Winning pitcher Anna Stallings, looking like an archer about to fire an arrow through a bulls-eye, settled down after allowing a first-frame home run and stifled Chester County from there. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Lady Cav first baseman Piper Smith snares this throw from third sacker Madison Stitts in time to get this Chester County runner, who feared the tailing toss was fading toward her head. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Courtesy runner Chloe Adkisson slides in safely to score on a wild pitch, beating this toss from the backstop to add to Crockett's mounting lead Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Hannah Carter made this running catch in the outfield in the game's early going, helping pitcher Anna Stallings to settle into her groove. Carter scored three runs and drove in another in the victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Second baseman Wesley Thornton underhands a throw to first base to get the final out of the third inning in Monday's 13-3 romp over Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Another familiar sight to West Tennessee softball fans: Crockett's Piper White beating out a bunt at first base, leading to three more stolen bases on the day and three more Lady Cav runs. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Courtesy runner Mae Parker takes off from second to come all the way around and score on a fly ball single to right field by Madison Solis. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Hannah Carter's familiar second-base flop nets the senior outfielder another stolen base in the middle of another Lady Cavalier uprising. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Right fielder Kiyra Liggins blasted this pitch off the center-field fence in the air for a run-scoring double in her first at-bat of the day Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Cavalier baseball ace Brady Fronabarger was on the mound Monday in a big district game with Dyer County, but seven unearned runs in his four innings derailed any positives. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Freshman third baseman George Randall was the lone Cavalier to even record a base hit off Dyer County's Jack Smith, who spun a 12-0 shutout against the hosts. (Photo by Ron Barry)