

LADY CAVALIER SOFTBALLERS SPLIT FRIDAY GAMES IN MURFREESBORO TOURNAMENT



Above: Piper White often shows bunt as she steps to the plate, pretty much warning the opponent that you're going to have to negate my speed. Mountain Home, an Arkansas team, couldn't -- and White went 3-for-3 with her third consecutive game of four stolen bases. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Crockett won its Friday opener against the Arkansas school as Piper White – who stole four bases for the third consecutive game in the tournament – ran wild again, going 3-for-3 with two singles and a triple, drawing a walk, and scoring three times. She received offensive support from red-hot Madison Stitts, the Lady Cav freshman third baseman, who matched White's three hits, stole a base, and drove in a run.

Crockett jumped into the lead immediately in Game #1 when White walked, stole second, and came around to score on a single by Hannah Carter, who fouled off four two-strike pitches before ripping a hard ground ball into right field. Carter took second and third on two wild pitches, and then raced home on another hard-hit single to right by freshman Wesley Thornton.

Thornton moved around to third on a bunt single by Stitts, who then stole second. Senior outfielder Sadie Hoover laid down a bunt so perfectly placed for a hit that it drove in both Thornton and Stitts for a 4-0 Lady Cav advantage.

Crockett tallied twice more in the third after a White single, two more steals, and a walk to Carter. White stole home as Carter swiped second, and as Carter then stole third, the throw was mishandled for an error, allowing her to score as well for a 6-0 margin.

Mountain Home finally scored a run in the top of the sixth on a sacrifice fly, the only blemish in six outstanding frames of work by junior hurler Anna Stallings. She allowed just three hits, didn't walk anybody, and struck out four to earn the win.

Stitts singled home White in the bottom of the frame to wrap up the contest's scoring.

In addition to the three hits apiece by White and Stitts, Carter had two and Thornton, Hoover, Piper Smith, and Gabby Bursey produced one each.

Game #2 was a much different story. Andean has been a top Indiana team since the arrival of Drousius, and she showed why Friday, belting a two-run homer to cap a six-run uprising in the second that overcame a 4-2 Crockett lead heading into the frame, and adding a solo shot to lead off the bottom of the fourth that made it 9-5, Andean.

Only two of Crockett's five runs were earned as the 59ers committed three errors in the game. The Lady Cavs made two of their own, the first allowing the 59ers to take a 2-1 lead in the first inning and the second helping load the bases for a two-run double by Micah Snider that tied the game at 4-4 in the second frame.

Thornton and Smith each collected two of Crockett's seven hits. Freshman Maddie Haynes added a double for the Lady Cavs, and Carter and Madison Solis collected the other safeties. Stitts, Solis, and Bursey had RBIs for Crockett, which fell to 11-3 with the defeat.

Andean roughed up Lady Cav starter Emmalynn Medlin, scoring seven earned runs with six hits and two walks in just an inning-plus of work. Stallings relieved in the second and gave up six hits over the final three innings, but also struck out six and limited the slugging Indianans to just two more tallies.

Snider went 3-for-3 for the winners to support the bombs from Drousius. The Lady Cavs had won five straight before the loss and will try to bounce back Saturday morning.

By Ron Barry

It took one of the best softball players in the Midwest to cool off Crockett County's Lady Cavaliers in the Southern Warrior Classic in Murfreesboro Friday.

Coach Baron Jimmerson's club won their first two tournament games Thursday and then defeated Mountain Home (AR) 7-1 Friday morning before running into Andean High's Sadie Drousius Friday afternoon.

Drousius, one of the top juniors in Indiana softball, hammered a pair of home runs and yielded just two earned runs over five innings of pitching as the 59ers stopped Crockett's winning streak with a 10-5 triumph.

The Lady Cavaliers have two morning games scheduled Saturday in Murfreesboro, facing Dunlap at 8:00 and Soddy Daisy at 10:00. The Dunlap team is from Illinois; Soddy Daisy is from east Tennessee.



Above: Even if you stop one Piper against Crockett, you still have to contend with another speedy one. Piper Smith had one hit against Mountain Home and two against Andean of Indiana Friday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Freshman third baseman Madison Stitts collected three hits Friday in the 7-1 victory over Mountain Home in the Southern Warrior Classic in Murfreesboro. (Photo by Ron Barry)