

# SPRING BREAK THURSDAY BRINGS FOUR WINS TO CAVALIER DIAMOND TEAMS



**Above:** Carmen Claybrooks hammered a triple in the 13-5 win over George Washington (WV), helping Crockett improve to 10-2 on the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

If your high school athletic team is playing games during Spring Break, you might as well: (1) enjoy the rare nice weather; and (2) win your games.

That's exactly what Crockett County's softball and baseball teams did Thursday. The Lady Cavaliers, playing in the Southern Warrior Classic in Murfreesboro, defeated the Boone Grove (IN) Lady Wolves 12-4 and the George Washington (WV) Lady Patriots 13-5. The Cav baseballers downed Dresden 13-1 and Carlisle County (KY) 4-2, playing in Union City.

**SOFTBALL:** Coach Baron Jimmerson's club was feeling pretty good after scoring five runs in the top of the first inning against Boone Grove – but not as good after yielding four to the Lady Wolves in the bottom of the frame.

After that, though, it was all Crockett County as the Lady Cavs completed a 12-hit attack and didn't give up any more runs.

Wesley Thornton started Crockett's scoring in the first with a sacrifice fly after Piper White beat out a bunt single, and stole second and third. With two outs, Hannah Carter – who'd been hit by a pitch – scored on a passed ball, just before a double by Fallon Beard chased home Madison Stitts, who had walked. After an infield hit by Piper Smith. Madison Solis singled Beard home, and Smith later tallied on an error to make it 5-0.

Boone Grove countered with four runs on four hits, a walk, and an error, but would be blanked after that.

In the second, the Lady Cavs made it 6-4 when Stitts walked and came around to score when Sadie Hoover's line drive single to left field was misplayed. In the fourth, Carter got hit by another pitch and raced home on a double by Thornton, who then scored on a Stitts single to make it 8-4.

Crockett put the game away with a four-run fifth, highlighted by a Hoover sac fly and three other tallies on wild pitches or passed balls. Anna Stallings, after surviving the Indiana school's opening-frame rally, was the winning pitcher, going four innings before Emmalynn Medlin finished up with a scoreless fifth.

White, Thornton, Stitts, and Smith all had two hits for Crockett. Stitts also walked twice and scored three runs, while Thornton was the only hitter with multiple RBIs.

In their second game of the day, Thornton singled, doubled, homered, and walked, scoring three times and driving home three runs as the freshman infielder paced a 13-hit attack against the Charleston, WV school. White had a double and Carmen Claybrooks a triple for the winners, with White also swiping four bases.

Crockett led 13-0 before George Washington even got on the scoreboard in the fourth. Medlin pitched the first three innings and yielded just one hit in her scoreless stint. Syesha Torres went the last two frames for the Lady Cavs.

In addition to Thornton's big game, White, Carter, Stitts, and Claybrooks all had two hits. White joined Thornton with three runs scored. On Friday, Crockett plays Mountain Home (AR) in a 10:00 a.m. contest before tangling with another Indiana team, the Andean Fighting 59ers, at 2:00 p.m. The Lady Cavs are now 10-2 on the season.

**BASEBALL:** Bryson Vance led the demolition of Dresden with a run-scoring triple and a three-run homer, the latter being the highlight of a 10-run uprising in the fourth inning that broke open a 3-1 game.

After Dresden had taken a 1-0 lead in the first, Luke Beard tied it in the second by doubling home Grayson Lambert, who had singled. Brody Parlow ran for catcher Beard and scored easily when Vance slammed his triple to right field for a 2-1 Crockett edge. Three straight walks set up a Landry Fronabarger sac fly in the third to extend the margin to 3-1 before the Cavaliers exploded in the fourth.

Lambert singled, Beard was hit by a pitch, and Vance singled to load the bases – which Callan Willis then cleared with a long double to left. After Karson Kail walked, Willis stole third and came home on an errant throw by the catcher. Carter Winders singled Kail to third before stealing second himself, and both raced home on a Brady Fronabarger single to make it 9-1.

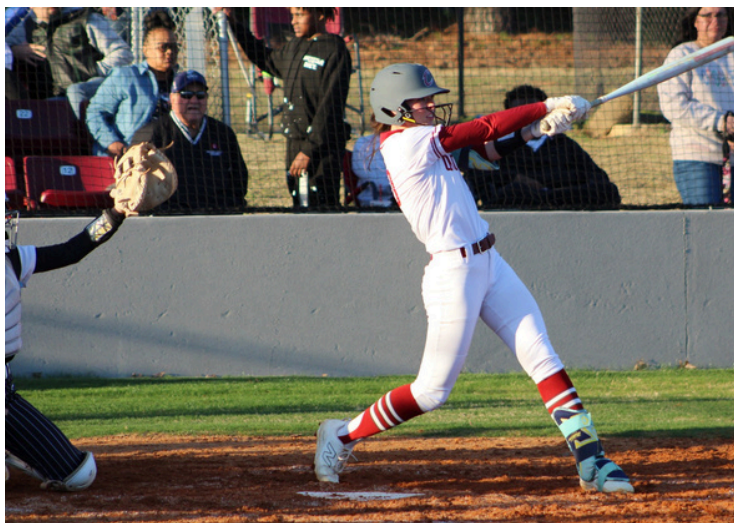
Fronabarger tallied when Lambert reached on a two-base error, and Beard was then hit by a pitch for the second time in the inning. Vance followed by skying his three-run homer over the left-field fence, and it was 13-1.

Crockett pitchers Jameson Bushart (three innings) and Preston Lambert (two) kept the score there until game's end, combining on a two-hitter. Bushart fanned six in his three frames to claim the win.

The Cavs' second contest of the day was more of a pitchers' duel with Carlisle County. Crockett took a 2-0 lead in the third on a two-run single by Preston Lambert. Coach Austin Taylor's club added a fifth-frame tally on a George Randall sacrifice fly, but Carlisle County answered with a couple of runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Crockett produced the final run in the seventh on a walk, a sac bunt, and a single by the red-hot Vance. Cade Freeman came on to pitch the bottom of the seventh in relief of Tyler Rathbun, and struck out two of the three batters he faced to get the save.

Rathbun went six frames of two-hit ball, striking out seven to claim the pitching victory. Crockett managed just five hits, two of them by Vance. The 9-3 Cavaliers' next scheduled home game is a district clash Monday with Dyer County.



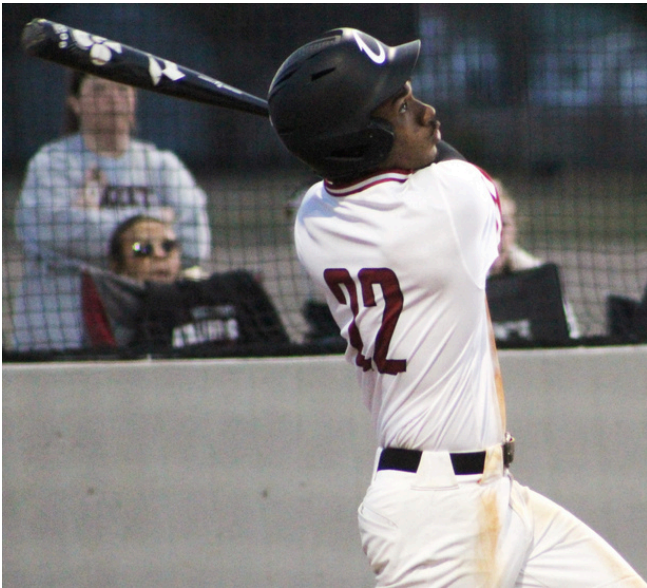
**Left:** Freshman slugger Wesley Thornton was playing some more longball Thursday in Murfreesboro, slamming a double and a homer (and a single) in the Lady Cavs' second game of the day after collecting two hits in the first one. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Fallon Beard ripped a run-scoring double as part of the attack in a 12-4 triumph over Boone Grove (IN) in the Lady Cavs' Murfreesboro opener Thursday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Across two games Thursday in Murfreesboro, Piper White was 4-for-7 with a double and eight -- count 'em -- eight stolen bases. (Photo by Ron Barry)



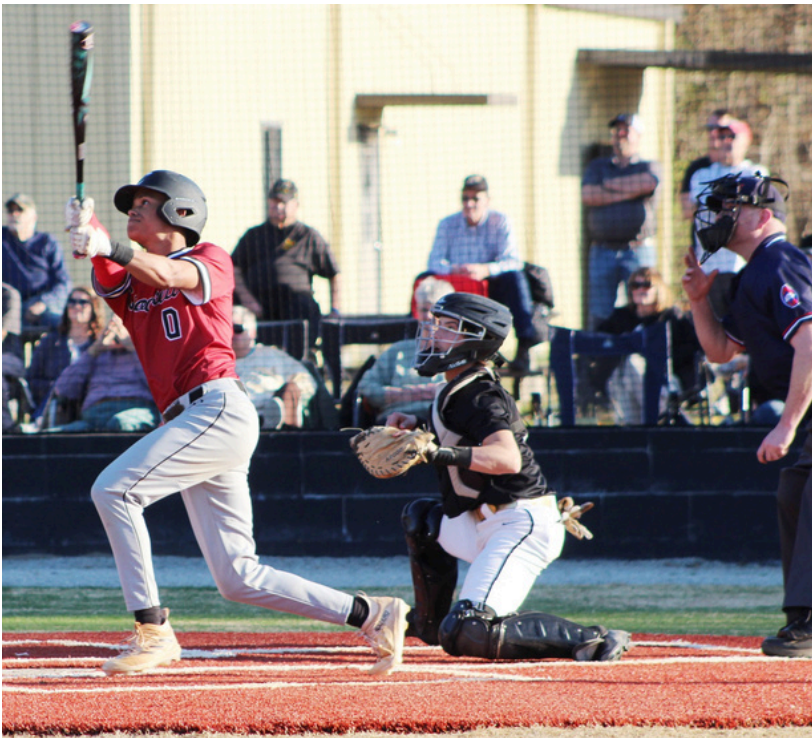


**Above:** Playing in a tournament in Union City Thursday, Crockett's Bryson Vance was on fire, going 5-for-6 with five RBIs, a triple, and a home run to key a pair of Cavalier victories. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Senior Cade Freeman hit a double Thursday and also picked up a save in Crockett's 4-2 win over Carlisle County (KY), retiring the side in the seventh on just nine pitches. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Callan Willis blasted a key three-run triple to help the Cavaliers take down Dresden 13-1 in the Union City Tournament Thursday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Tyler Rathbun pitched six strong innings, yielding just two runs and striking out seven, to get the win as Crockett edged Carlisle County (KY) Thursday in Union City. (Photo by Ron Barry)

