

DIAMOND TEAMS SPARKLE AGAIN TUESDAY; TRACKSTERS SOLID AT MILLINGTON MEET



Above: Sadie Hoover lined a ball to right field in the first frame that required a diving catch in the outfield, but delivered a timely hit in the sixth to help set up the Madison Solis two-run double. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

SOFTBALL: Madison Solis was tired of watching her young freshman battery mate laboring with very little run support.

Crockett County's senior catcher – who's usually receiving pitches from junior stalwart Anna Stallings – was locked in a 2-0 struggle against host Jackson South Side Tuesday, and the Lady Cavaliers' "rookie" Emmalynn Medlin was tossing a gem through five innings.

But Crockett's offense had been close to non-existent in those five frames. The Lady Cavs' two runs came after three walks loaded the bases in the third and Sadie Hoover swung and missed at a high pitch that eluded the South Side catcher, allowing Piper White to race home to break a scoreless contest. Wesley Thornton sped home on a wild pitch later in Hoover's at-bat.

And that was it. Neither team even had a hit until Hannah Carter's two-out single in the top of the fifth. And through the bottom of the frame, Medlin hadn't allowed any safeties to the host Lady Hawks.

"My screwball and my curveball were both working pretty well today," Medlin said after the game. "Those are the pitches I rely on most, so I didn't have to move away from my game plan. I wasn't really concerned about the score being so close. Our offense usually comes through."

Enter the top of the sixth. Freshman third baseman Madison Stitts led off with a solid line-drive single to center. Then Hoover dropped another liner in front of the left fielder for a single. Medlin drew a walk to load the bases, and Coach Baron Jimmerson inserted another freshman – Maddie Haynes – to pinch-hit.

"We have such a young core of players," Jimmerson said. "And they're all good players. Some of them start for us. But I'd like to give even more of them some big-game experience. It's just not that easy to do with only so many spots."

Jimmerson hasn't been reluctant to use his freshmen. And Haynes came through with a sacrifice fly to right, with Stitts sliding across home plate to beat the throw and make it 3-0.

That brought up Solis. Veteran catchers are fiercely protective of their pitchers, and Solis wasn't about to let Medlin feel more pressure than she needed to in this contest.

On the first pitch, Solis belted a long drive to the right-center gap, easily scoring the two baserunners and breaking the game open for the Lady Cavs, who would end up adding five more tallies in the rally before it ended for an eventual 10-0 victory, their eighth in 10 starts this season.

After the smash by Solis, Jimmerson kept the merry-go-round on the bases active by ordering bunts by the next three batters – Gabby Bursey, White, and Carter – and all three did it for hits, producing three runs with the help of a South Side throwing error. Thornton scorched a hard single to left, which was bobbled by the outfielder, allowing another run. A Stitts groundout chased Thornton home with the tenth run.

Medlin allowed a two-out single in the bottom of the sixth to spoil the no-hit bid, but still managed her first complete-game varsity shutout, allowing just four baserunners in the contest.

Crockett will now journey to Murfreesboro to begin play in the Warrior Classic Thursday through Saturday. The Lady Cavs are scheduled to have two games each day.

BASEBALL: On Monday, Brady Fronabarger tormented Obion County with his arm.

On Tuesday, he tormented the Rebels with his bat.

The junior lefthander threw the first five innings of a combined no-hitter Monday as Crockett blanked Obion 10-0. Tuesday, Fronabarger singled in a run in the first, blasted a three-run homer in the fourth, and drew a bases-loaded walk in the seventh to give him five RBIs for the day as the Cavaliers won 15-0 for a district sweep of the Rebels.

Crockett only had a total of eight hits, but Obion pitchers walked nine, hit five more batters, and committed six errors as Coach Austin Taylor's club cruised to their seventh win in nine outings.

Grayson Lambert pitched five innings of two-hit, shutout ball to make it simple for the Cav offense. Sam Proctor finished up the final two frames.

George Randall drove in two runs and almost every player in the Crockett lineup reached base multiple times. Fronabarger and Preston Lambert each scored three times for the winners, who will play Paducah Tilghman Wednesday as they begin competition in the Union City Tournament through Saturday.

TRACK AND FIELD: Crockett County's track teams, limited somewhat by spring break absences, still turned in a number of solid performances at a Monday meet in Millington, including a new school record and a couple more personal ones.

Titus Luten extended his school record in the boys high jump to 5'-6", upping the mark he established just a couple of weeks ago. Aidan Klonowski, having an outstanding spring thus far in distance running, lowered his 1600 meters time to 5:02.43 and then shaved an incredible 40 seconds off his previous best in the 3200 meters, posting a time of 11:22.00 to place first in the race.

Laithon Bonds continued to dominate West Tennessee tracksters in the 300 hurdles, winning the event with a time of 43.83. Other top efforts included a 3-4-5 finish in the girls 800 meters, by Avery Thornton, Claire Evans, and Alivia Hale, respectively; a third-place girls triple jump by Addie Davidson; and a second-place showing in the girls 4x800 relay.

Many of the larger schools from the Memphis area, with long-established track programs, competed in the Millington meet. Many of Crockett's athletes posted improved times from their previous meet, including most of the relay teams for Coach Julie Nass. The next scheduled action for the Cavs and Lady Cavs is Saturday, April 5 in Arlington.

All those placing for Crockett County in the official Millington meet results:

Boys 100 Meters: Deuce Greenhill, 13th (11.95); DK Woods, 17th (12.32); Dre Walker, 19th (12.53).

Boys 200 Meters: Greenhill, 5th (23.90); DK Woods, 18th (25.58); Zay Jones, 20th (26.31).

Boys 1600 Meters: Aidan Klonowski, 3rd (PR - 5:02.43).

Boys 3200 Meters: Klonowski, 1st (PR - 11:22.00).

Boys 110 Hurdles: Titus Luten, 5th (18.87).

Boys 300 Hurdles: Laithon Bonds, 1st (43.83).

Boys 4x100 Relay: Crockett, 5th (45.85).

Boys 4x200 Relay: Crockett, 5th (1:38.61).

Boys High Jump: Luten, 3rd (SR - 5'6").

Boys Long Jump: Jeremiah Grant, 13th (12'4").

Boys Shot Put: Travis Cork, 8th (27'10"); Grant, 13th (23'5").

Girls 100 Meters: Madi Collins, 3rd (13.27); Ally Haynes, 10th (13.73).

Girls 200 Meters: Madi Collins, 12th (30.96); Katherine West, 13th (31.00); Haynes, 19th (34.48).

Girls 800 Meters: Avery Thornton, 3rd (2:53.00); Claire Evans, 4th (2:54.00); Alivia Hale, 5th (2:59.00).

Girls 1600 Meters: Hale, 7th (6:27.21); Avery Thornton, 8th (6:35.29).

Girls 3200 Meters: Harmony Walker, 5th (17:23.00).

Girls 100 Hurdles: Katherine West, 6th (21.14).

Girls 300 Hurdles: Addie Davidson, 5th (58.29).

Girls 4x100 Relay: Crockett, 4th (59.44).

Girls 4x200 Relay: Crockett, 4th (2:04.64).

Girls 4x800 Relay: Crockett, 2nd (11:54.89).

Girls Long Jump: Evans, 4th (13'3").

Girls Triple Jump: Davidson, 3rd (29'2").

Below: Crockett senior catcher Madison Solis watches her long double fly into the right-center gap, scoring two runs to break open a tight game with South Side in the top of the sixth inning Tuesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Freshman pitcher Emmalynn Medlin posted her first career complete-game varsity shutout, coming within an out of a no-hitter. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Neither team managed a hit in this game until Hannah Carter -- seen here stealing second without a slide in the first inning after a walk -- smacked a single to left in the fifth. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... but Madison Stitts somehow found her way around the blockade at the plate and even knocked the ball loose, ensuring a "safe" call on the bang-bang play. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Prior to the big double by Madison Solis, Madison Stitts made it 3-0 by coming home on a sacrifice fly by Maddie Haynes, even though it looks like the throw is on target to beat her... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Gabby Bursey was a workhorse in center field defensively for the Lady Cavs, and here beat out the first of three straight bunts that Crockett laid down for hits in the sixth-inning uprising. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Piper White got in on the bunt parade in that inning as well, dropping this one down perfectly and easily beating the throw to first. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: By the time the game reached the sixth inning, Wesley Thornton was determined she was going to make something happen when she stepped to the plate after the three previous batters had laid down bunts. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: The freshman infielder promptly ripped a sharp single into left field to keep the eight-run rally going. Since entering the starting lineup in the Lady Cavs' third game, Wesley Thornton is batting .500 (12-for-24). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: ... and freshman battery mate Emmalynn Medlin: 6 innings, 1 hit, no runs, 2 walks, and 2 strikeouts. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: But the biggest guns in this game were Madison Solis, who broke the game open, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)