

CROCKETT TEAMS LIGHT UP THE DIAMONDS MONDAY, INCLUDING COMBINED NO-HITTER



Above: Yet another freshman inserted into the Lady Cav lineup -- and Fallon Beard immediately delivered with two run-scoring hits, including a double in her first at-bat as a starter. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

If, as the old song says, “diamonds are a girl’s best friend,” every female in Crockett County should have been hanging around the high school ball fields Monday evening.

On the baseball side, you would have seen Brady Fronabarger and Tyler Rathbun combine to pitch a no-hitter as Crockett County won its district play opener against Obion Central 10-0.

On the softball side, you would have seen the Lady Cavaliers overcome a very shaky defensive start by collecting six run-scoring hits in an eight-run, third-inning rally to overcome a deficit and take down Lexington 12-5 as three freshmen played key roles.

BASEBALL: Fronabarger hurled five hitless frames, didn’t walk a batter, struck out 10, and slammed his third home run of the season as Coach Austin Taylor’s Cavs improved to 6-2 on the season.

Rathbun came on in relief for the sixth, kept the no-hitter intact, and then scored the run in the bottom of the sixth that invoked the “mercy rule” to end the game.

Crockett dominated its first district game of the season from the beginning. Fronabarger struck out the side in the top of the first – throwing strikes on 10 of 12 pitches – and then hit the third of three consecutive singles in the bottom of the frame to help the hosts jump out to a 3-0 lead.

With one out, Karson Kail lined a single to center and then stole second. Carter Winders singled to right and Kail beat the throw to the plate for the first tally. Sam Proctor ran for Winders (courtesy for the catcher) and came all the way around to third on a hard single to left by Fronabarger. Aiden Austin entered to run for the pitcher and promptly stole second, with Proctor scoring as the ball got away. Austin then raced home on a wild pitch.

The Cavs missed a bases-loaded scoring chance in the second on some bad luck. With one out, Preston Lambert doubled down the third base line, Bryson Vance walked, and Callan Willis was hit by a pitch. Kail then lined another shot toward the middle, but shortstop Joseph Smith speared it in the air and quickly flipped to second baseman Tucker Phelon for the inning-ending double play.

Fronabarger, unfazed by that development, struck out the side again in the top of the third and then belted a two-run homer in the bottom of the inning after a walk to battery mate Winders, extending Crockett’s advantage to 5-0.

In the Crockett fourth, Vance led off with a double and took third when Callan Willis reached on an error. Willis immediately stole second but was called out when Kail’s ground ball hit him as he was trying to advance to third (which is officially scored as a hit for Kail). Kail then stole second and Winders followed by ripping a two-RBI single to center. Fronabarger’s hard ground ball to second was booted for an error, allowing another run to score.

Austin, running again for Fronabarger, stole second and then took third on a pop single to right by Landry Fronabarger, eventually coming home on a George Randall groundout for a 9-0 Crockett margin.

The Cavs’ tenth run tallied in the sixth when Rathbun walked and came around on another Landry Fronabarger single.

Kail, Winders, and both Fronabargers had two hits apiece, with Winders and Brady Fronabarger driving home three runs each. The hosts stole nine bases against Obion. Fronabarger, in initiating the no-hitter, threw strikes on an astounding 46 of his 57 pitches over the five shutout frames.

The two teams tangle again Tuesday, this time at Obion’s field in Troy.

SOFTBALL: After the first two innings in the field Monday, Coach Baron Jimmerson had to be wondering if his Lady Cavs would be in for a long, ugly day.

Lexington scored three runs in the first and two more in the second, with only one of the tallies earned. Crockett committed four errors on the infield as the visitors led 5-2 heading into the bottom of the second.

The Lady Cavs put two runs on the board in the first on a run-scoring single by Maddison Stitts and an RBI double by Fallon Beard, making her first varsity start as the designated hitter.

Crockett chipped away with another run in the second when speedster Piper Smith reached second on a ground ball boot and a throwing error. A fly out by Madison Solis moved Smith over to third, and she made it 5-3 on a groundout by Gabby Bursey.

Lady Cav pitcher Anna Stallings blanked the Tigers in the top of the third, and then the Crockett offense cranked it up a notch.

With one out, Stitts reached on an error and Sadie Hoover singled her to second. Beard delivered her second straight hit to score Stitts, and both Lady Cavs runners moved up a base on the throw home. After a strikeout, Solis lined a single to center to plate Hoover and Beard, pushing the hosts ahead 6-5. Chloe Adkisson ran for Solis and took third on a Bursey single. Piper White then doubled to center, scoring Adkisson and sending Bursey to third.

Hannah Carter made it 8-5 by beating out an infield hit as Bursey raced home. Wesley Thornton doubled on a pop fly to right field, scoring White, and Stitts singled to center to plate Carter and Thornton and give Crockett an 11-5 edge.

Stallings pitched out of a jam in the fourth and Crockett added its final run in the bottom of the frame when Beard walked and eventually scored on another single by Bursey. Stallings had no problems over the final three innings.

The three freshmen in the Lady Cav lineup – Thornton, Stitts, and Beard – combined for five hits, six RBIs, six runs scored, and a couple of walks. White, Hoover, and Bursey added two hits apiece for the winners, who improved to 7-2 on the season.

Crockett travels to Jackson Tuesday for a rematch with South Side at 5 p.m. The Lady Cavs defeated the Lady Hawks 8-2 eight days ago.

Below: Brady Fronabarger threw strikes on a staggering 81% of his pitches Monday in five no-hit innings against district foe Obion County Central. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Brady Fronabarger's battery mate -- catcher Carter Winders -- drove in three runs for the victorious Cavs with a couple of hits against Obion. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Sadie Hoover, after making a fly ball catch in right field, prepares to fire the ball back in to prevent a runner from tagging. Hoover had two more hits for the Lady Cavs against Lexington. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Karson Kail (23) is safe on this steal of second, getting in ahead of the tag from Obion's Joseph Smith. Kail collected two more hits as Crockett downed the Rebels 10-0 in the district opener. (Photo by Ron Barry)



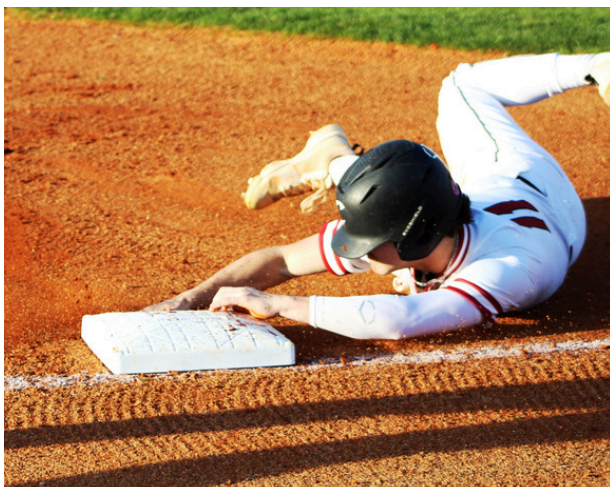
Left: Gabby Burse -- whose offensive skills apparently include the ability to make her bat levitate at will -- had two key hits for Crockett against Lexington. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Lady Cavalier pitcher Anna Stallings -- preparing to deliver a pitch as first baseman Piper Smith readies herself defensively -- settled in after the first couple of innings to blank the Lady Tigers over the final five frames. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Cavalier courtesy runner Aiden Austin dove home to score a run on an Obion County wild pitch in the first inning as Crockett took a 3-0 advantage. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Baserunning was key for Crockett early on against Obion. Here, courtesy runner Sam Proctor comes in so hard at third base he has to hook himself around the inside of the bag to slow himself down. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Right after that, Sam Proctor gets even more acrobatic scoring on this play at the plate as a throw gets away from Obion's catcher (the ball can be seen to the right). (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Freshman third baseman Madison Stitts has been pounding the ball for the Lady Cavs and knocked in three more runs in Monday's 12-5 victory over Lexington. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett's softballers had a rough first inning defensively Monday, causing Coach Baron Jimmerson to call a timeout to calm everyone down. Listening in are (from left) Madison Solis, Piper Smith, and Madison Stitts. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Brady Fronabarger's heroics Monday were not limited to his no-hit pitching. The talented junior also hammered his third home run of the season, a shot over the right-field fence. (Photo by Ron Barry)

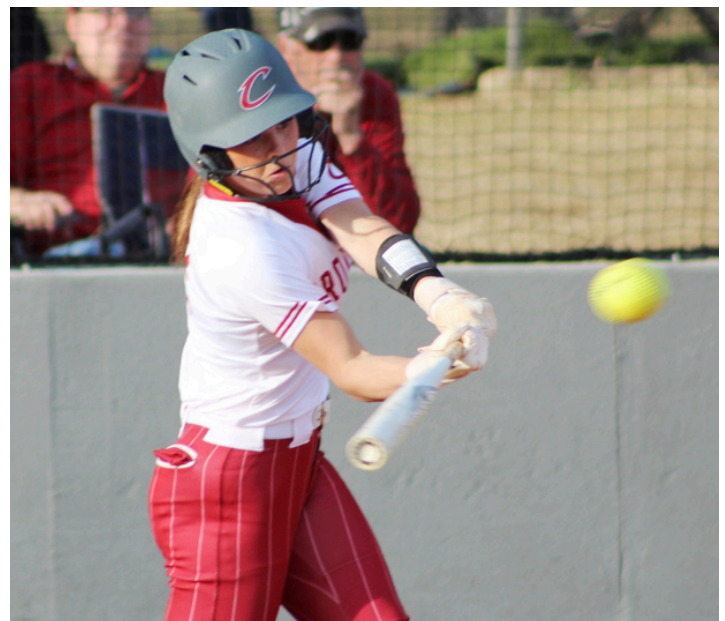


Left: Early on, Lexington was hitting the ball in spots that led to baserunners, like this one in which Piper White had no chance to make a throw after knocking it down in the hole. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: This was Fallon Beaird's first hit as a member of the varsity starting lineup, a double that went off the center-field fence in the opening inning for the Lady Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Preston Lambert pulls into second after drilling a double down the third-base line in the bottom of the second inning against Obion. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: The Cavaliers had a birthday boy in the dugout -- assistant coach Boone Parlow. It was also the wedding anniversary for head coach Austin Taylor. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Piper Smith's speed gives opponents fits. Here she's racing for first after laying down a great bunt (seen at right); Smith beat the throw to first and continued onto second when it was mishandled. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Lady Cav catcher Madison Solis reaches high for a throw to the plate, but it was too late to make a tag on the Lexington runner. But Solis drove in two runs in the right-run third-inning rally to turn the game around. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Bryson Vance speaks kindly to his bat after it helped him deliver a double in a previous a-bat Monday evening against Lexington. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Karson Kail has been steadily hammering the ball for Crockett, and continued smacking line drives Monday against Obion. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Freshman second baseman Wesley Thornton makes a throw to first for an out against Lexington. Thornton had a run-scoring double in Crockett's big uprising. (Photo by Ron Barry)

