

SORIANO SATISFIED WITH CROCKETT SOCCER REOUND HEADING INTO SPRING BREAK



Above: A happy Santiago Santos -- recovered from getting kicked in the face earlier -- celebrates Chris Cerda's second straight hat trick after the Cavs' final goal. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

When you're missing a couple of key cogs in your machine, you have to expect that it's not going to run perfectly well. But you're hoping it will still do its job without breaking down.

Crockett County's soccer team managed to do that Saturday, capturing a 6-3 victory over visiting McNairy County -- and while it wasn't a masterpiece performance, first-year coach Joey Soriano will take it heading into the school's spring break week.

The Cavaliers were missing two offensive sparkplugs -- Angel Garcia and Luke Carter -- due to prior commitments before the McNairy contest was rescheduled for this weekend. And they almost lost two more during the battle with the Wildcats, as Santiago Santos took an inadvertent foot to the face early in the second half and leading scorer Chris Cerda was upended by a sliding goalkeeper with just minutes to play, but both were okay after the match.

That left Soriano somewhat content heading into the break that he hopes will provide his players some much-needed rest.

"This one wasn't the prettiest match we've played," Soriano laughed when it was over, "but we played much better in the second half. It was really a game of two halves. But considering now how we've bounced back from that first match at the Arlington Ambush, I'm satisfied that we're moving in the right direction as we head into district play when we get back from the break."

The Cavs' win was their third straight since dropping three matches to some of the state's best teams at the Arlington event, and improved the season's mark to 4-3 as Crockett will now be idle until opening district play April 3 at home against Dyer County.

Soriano's club got off to a sluggish start against McNairy in a game that began at 11 a.m. Saturday. The Cavalier defense performed well in the first half, but the offense didn't get on the scoreboard until past the midway point of the opening period. Braulio Marquez did the honors for the hosts, netting a shot from the right side with 16:23 remaining before intermission. It was the only goal for either team in the first half.

Crockett came out with a much more concerted effort after the break. Less than three minutes in, Cerda scored the first of what would be three second-half goals as the Cav attacker posted his second straight hat trick.

Brandon Carcamo scored Crockett's next tally with 21:48 left to play for a 3-0 Cav advantage, but McNairy answered less than a minute later to cut it to 3-1 and inject some newfound hope into the Wildcats' morale.

That was quickly expunged when, with 17:29 remaining, Aiden Markgraf took a crossing pass from Cerda and drilled in a shot from the left side to make it 4-1. Less than two minutes later, Cerda blistered a shot from outside the box with such force that, while deflected into the air by a defender, it still sailed above the arms of the keeper and just below the crossbar to push the margin to 5-1.

Cerda completed his three-goal hat trick with 12:11 to play when he punched in a shot off a perfectly placed corner kick by Marquez. McNairy scored twice in the game's last five minutes after Soriano had replaced the majority of his starters to make the final 6-3.

In addition to the goal scorers, Marquez, Cerda, and Daniel Grajeda recorded assists, and Noah Mayfield collected eight saves in going the distance as Crockett's goalkeeper.

UPDATE ON LEXINGTON PITCHER JAYCE WADLEY: Wadley, who was injured by a batted ball to his face in Friday night's game with Crockett County, was discharged from Vanderbilt hospital Saturday with a positive report. His orbital fracture was non-displaced, and he was released and will be under observation as he takes a three-month reprieve from sport participation. The Crockett County School District thanks everyone for their continued prayers for this young man.

Below: Crockett's Chris Cerda leaps over a sliding McNairy Central defender who's trying to stop a sideline rush in the second half of the Cavs' 6-3 win Saturday, in which Cerda scored three times. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Brandon Carcamo got this close to a breakaway goal in the first half until the McNairy Central goalkeeper dove onto the ball at the last second. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: The goalkeeper's move forced Brandon Carcamo to make a quick adjustment to avoid serious contact. Carcamo scored a second-half goal to put the Cavaliers ahead 3-0. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Braulio Marquez -- who scored Crockett's first goal -- gets off another solid shot in the second half, but it was deflected away by the McNairy goalkeeper. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: When your Mom is the assistant soccer coach, you have to find something to keep you occupied during the match. Carli Branson's son Cooper seems to have found just the thing on a warm Saturday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Athletic trainer Carah-Beth Back and Cavalier coach Joey Soriano tend to Crockett's Santiago Santos, who was inadvertently kicked in the face during a rush at the goal. Santos was able to return to play after a short rest. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Max Utley, one of the most dependable anchors of the Crockett back line, prepares for a side throw-in during first-half action with McNairy Saturday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



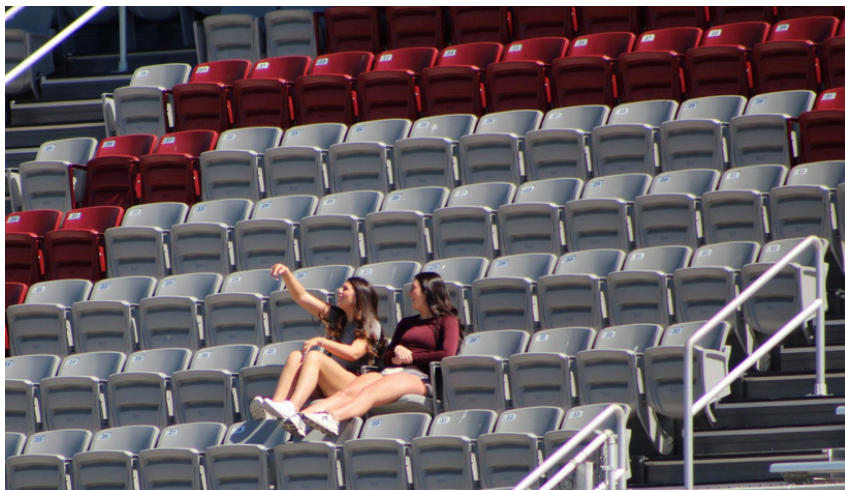
Above: Aiden Markgraf (23) slipped past a Wildcat defender and punched in this shot after a Chris Cerda pass to give Crockett a 4-1 lead with 17:29 to play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett goalkeeper Noah Mayfield went all out to stop this McNairy attack on goal and keep the Wildcats off the scoreboard in the first half Saturday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Daniel Grajeda (20) and Adrian Calderon (17) jockey for position near the McNairy goal as the Cavaliers prepare to execute a corner kick in the second half. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: George Goldsby got a defensive start for the Cavs and is congratulated by Coach Joey Soriano for doing his part to help keep the Wildcats off the scoreboard during his stint in the first half. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: When it's Crockett County's spring break but there's a soccer game going on, these two young ladies just found a secluded spot near the top of the bleachers to catch some rays while they cheered on the Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Hutsen Stephens works the ball down the sideline in preparation for a centering pass into the middle in the second half of Crockett's 6-3 win over McNairy Saturday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Chris Cerda delivered this boot from long range with such force that it deflected off a defender and still went into the McNairy net from outside the box for the Cavs' fifth goal. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Daniel Grajeda (20) wards off a McNairy player as he tries to clear the way for teammate Chris Cerda to carry the pass toward the goal. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Crockett's Jacob Wede delivers a sideline throw-in to Adrian Calderon (17) during the second half of Saturday's game. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Braulio Marquez -- who had a goal and an assist -- displays some fancy footwork before dashing past two McNairy defenders and leading another rush at the net. (Photo by Ron Barry)

