

SOFTBALL TEAM HITS A ROADBLOCK; BASEBALL CAVS HIT THE SELF-DESTRUCT BUTTON



Above: Konner Turnage won his boys tennis match Tuesday against North Side in Jackson, blanking his opponent 8-0. (Photo by Sarah Kennedy)

Back in Alamo, the Crockett baseball team – just one night after playing so well in a 4-2 triumph over Munford – shot itself in the foot time after time, committing eight errors in the first four innings alone, and a handful of passed balls on top of that. Consequently, none of the seven runs Brighton put on the scoreboard were earned.

SOFTBALL: Crockett's six-game winning streak was snapped by the powerful Lady Choctaws, who received homers from Emma Wray, Kennedy Hill, and Rylee Key in slowly building a healthy run differential with tallies in four of their six at-bats. Key also pitched four shutout innings before turning the circle over to freshman Molly Woody, who yielded the Lady Cavs' lone run in three frames of work.

That run came in the top of the fifth when Piper White walked and stole second, advancing to third on a line-drive single by Hannah Carter. On the first pitch to Wesley Thornton, with Carter advancing to second, Dyer County catcher Wray picked White off third for the first out. It was doubly costly after Thornton then drilled a hard single to right field, scoring Carter to make it 4-1 at the time.

Crockett starting pitcher Anna Stallings issued a leadoff walk in the bottom of the fifth, and Key followed with a two-run jack over the center-field fence, pushing the edge to 6-1. The Lady Choctaws added three more insurance runs in the bottom of the sixth off Lady Cav reliever Emmalynn Medlin.

Thornton was the only Crockett player with two hits. Madison Solis had a hit and a walk, and Piper Smith and Madison Stitts collected the remaining Lady Cav safeties.

Evie Rogers went 3-for-3 for Dyer County, while Katie Caldwell had a double and two runs batted in and Key knocked in three.

Crockett, now 17-5 and 3-1 in the district, travels to Dyersburg for a rematch Thursday at 5:30.

BASEBALL: Brady Ray stifled the Crockett bats with a complete-game two-hitter for Brighton, but it was the Cavaliers' clownish defense – almost exclusively on routine plays – that was the story of the game.

In the top of the first, Cav starter Brady Fronabarger quickly retired the first two Cardinal batters and then issued a four-pitch walk and hit the next batter in the foot on a two-strike pitch. Caiden Gaines then hit a ground ball and was safe when it was wildly thrown to first, allowing Carson Hooper to score.

In the top of the third, Kaiden Ingram led off with a single and Garrett Glass bunted, producing another error that put runners on first and third. Glass took second on a passed ball right before Hooper singled to center, upping the lead to 3-0. Two more Crockett errors allowed the visitors to add their fourth run, and yet another boot produced the fifth.

In the top of the fourth, Ingram drew another four-pitch walk and took second on another passed ball before Fronabarger walked Glass. Hooper then bunted right back to the junior lefthander, but his throw to third sailed into left field, scoring Ingram and sending Glass to third. Gaines chased him home with a sacrifice fly for the 7-0 advantage.

By Ron Barry

One Crockett County softball team ran into a buzzsaw. Another Crockett County team butchered itself.

That was the tale from two different diamonds Wednesday night as the Crockett softball squad fell to district rival Dyer County 9-1 and the Cavalier baseball team was blanked by Brighton 7-0.

In Newbern, the Lady Choctaws sent a clear message that the path to a district softball championship runs through Dyer County this season. Crockett had already picked up wins against Dyersburg, Obion County, and South Gibson, and all by fairly good margins – but Dyer County dominated its matchup with the Lady Cavs, limiting the visitors to just six singles and a couple walks while producing a 12-hit attack that included three home runs.

Tyler Rathbun entered in relief in the fifth and despite yielding two walks and a single, didn't allow a run due to catcher Carter Winders picking a Brighton runner off second base. Rathbun threw two more scoreless innings after that, giving up just one harmless single.



Left: Freshman Wesley Thornton was the only Lady Cavalier to collect two hits in Wednesday's loss to Dyer County, and she also drove in the team's only run. (Photo by Ron Barry)

But Crockett managed just two hits against the Cardinals. Mason Ray smashed a long double and then smoked a hard line-drive out in his two at-bats as the most successful Cav hitter for the day. Callan Willis had the other Crockett hit, on Brady Ray's third pitch of the game.

Below: Mason Ray slammed a double over the center-fielder's head on this swing, one of only two hits Crockett managed in its defeat to Brighton Wednesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

The Cavs fell to 11-7 on the season and will be back in action Friday for a 6 p.m. contest at Gibson County.



TENNIS: Crockett defeated North Side in a Monday match in Jackson, with the girls sweeping their hosts 7-0 and the Cavalier boys also blanking their depleted opponents 7-0, most of them forfeits.

North Side was missing most of its boys team, and Konner Turnage blitzed Zane Spann 8-0 in the only actual match that was played.



Above: Carter Winders started at third base Wednesday night, but moved back behind the plate in the fourth inning and picked a runner off second base in the fifth. (Photo by Ron Barry)

On the girls side, Crockett prevailed against a full lineup. In singles, Izzy Yearwood topped LaKiya Forrest 8-0; Brennan Morris zipped past Khenzi Foulks 8-0; Miley Silva blanked Naleah Addison 8-0; Ashley Boone defeated Anniston Hawkins 8-1; and Lily Maddox downed Aaliyah Perry 8-0. In an extra match, Crockett's Blakelynn Edwards cruised past Makayla Mann 8-0.



Left: Ashley Boone (left) and Lily Maddox teamed up to record a doubles victory as Crockett's girls swept North Side Tuesday 7-0. (Photo by Sarah Kennedy)

In doubles play, Boone and Maddox defeated Forrest and Hawkins 8-2; and Edwards and Cacie Jo McNeil downed Foulks and Addison 8-1 for Coach Sarah Kennedy.

Crockett hosts Munford Thursday for its "Senior Night" event.