

CROCKETT SOCCER PROGRAMS REAPING BENEFITS AT MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL LEVELS



Above: Catcher Carter Winders provided all the Crockett offense with a solo home run in the second inning, the only Cavalier tally in a 9-1 loss at South Gibson Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

It wasn't too long ago that you could reasonably expect a district soccer championship to be decided in a game between Dyersburg and South Gibson.

But now... if you're counting Crockett County out of the mix, you haven't been paying attention lately.

Monday night at Troy, Coach Joey Soriano's high school Cavaliers downed Obion County Central 4-1 to move to a 3-0 district record, leaving them just one game away from hosting the district tournament.

And Monday night in Paris, Coach Jonathan Grajeda's middle school Cavs used a second-half comeback and an overtime goal to defeat Paris Inman 2-1 and advance to the "Final Four" of the West Tennessee Regional Tournament.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: Luke Carter netted two goals and assisted on the other two as well as Crockett took down Obion in a district road game. Brandon Carcamo scored the other pair of goals in a game in which Crockett controlled the ball almost exclusively, as Cav goalkeeper Allan Marquez only had to make one save all night. Angel Garcia added an assist to the Crockett attack.

"Brandon continues to be a stand-out player for us with his ability to run the full length of the field and play defense, while still finding the back of the net offensively," said CCHS assistant coach Carli Branson, who deserves much of the credit for helping build Crockett soccer into a successful program. Serving as head coach of the girls program and, along with Alex Taylor, as an assistant to Soriano with the boys, Branson is seeing the fruits of her long-term efforts locally begin to blossom.

The Cavs will be back in action Friday night at 6:00 against district rival Dyer County. With a win, Crockett will host the upcoming district tournament.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: CCMS defeated Paris Inman 7-3 last Thursday night, but found the going much tougher Monday as the hosts forced a "Golden Goal" (overtime) situation before netting the deciding tally in a 2-1 victory.

While Crockett managed six shots on goal in the first half, none found the net, while Cav goalie Henry Mayfield stopped two Inman shots. But the Paris team broke through at the 29-minute mark of the second half to take a 1-0 advantage. The Cavs' Jacob Marquez answered two minutes later off a direct kick from just outside the box, and his tally eventually sent the match into the overtime session.

Inman won the coin toss and chose the direction of the field that put the sun directly into Mayfield's line of sight, and one of the early shots sailed just over the bar. But the Cavs moved the ball down the pitch and – with just 50 seconds left to play – Lucas Morales took a pass from Damian Marquez and booted it home for the winning goal.

Crockett will play at Dyersburg Wednesday in the regional semifinals, looking to avenge a 2-1 loss to the Trojans earlier this season. The Cavs will also play on Saturday at Jackson Christian School in either the championship or consolation game of the event.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL: Cade Allen's two-run triple in the opening inning got host South Gibson on an early roll, and the Hornets went on to defeat Crockett 9-1 Monday in a district matchup.

South Gibson managed seven runs in three innings off Crockett's Grayson Lambert, who entered the contest with an ERA of 0.60. But the Hornets laced nine hits in those three frames, although three of the seven runs would be unearned.

The Cavs' lone offensive highlight was a leadoff home run by catcher Carter Winders in the top of the second inning, one of just four hits Crockett would collect against South Gibson's Jack Bradberry, who didn't walk anybody while striking out nine. Bryson Vance, Mason Ray, and Cade Freeman had the other Cav hits, all singles.

Five different Hornets produced two hits apiece in constructing the triumph. The two teams meet again Tuesday at 4:30 as Crockett tries to improve its 11-10 overall record.



Above: Luke Carter, shown here zooming upfield between two Dyersburg defenders, scored two goals and assisted on the other two as Crockett defeated Obion County 4-1 Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Brandon Carcamo (14) also scored two goals against Obion and continued to thrill spectators with his ability to control the dribble through defensive traffic. (Photo by Ron Barry)