

# BONDS DOMINATES UC ROTARY RELAYS; AMARIA WALKER SIGNS WITH FISK BASKETBALL



Above: Claire Evans. (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

Laithon Bonds is on a record-breaking streak.

“Every time he runs he sets a new school record in the 300-meter hurdles,” said Crockett County track & field coach Julie Nass, “but that’s because he keeps breaking his own record.”

Bonds was at it again in Union City at the Rotary Relays Thursday night, lowering his time in the event to 43.08 as he easily posted another victory over some of West Tennessee’s best athletes. Bonds also placed third in the triple jump with a leap of 40-10.5 and ran the opening leg on the Cavaliers 4x100 relay team, which finished fourth in 45.47.

Other notable performances for Crockett included: Deuce Greenhill, third in the boys 100-meter dash; Titus Luten, third in the boys 110-meter hurdles; Aidan Klonowski, fourth in the boys 1600-meter run; Mason Dennis, tied for fourth in the boys high jump; Alivia Hale, third in the girls 3200-meter run and fourth in the 1600-meter run; Addie Davidson,

third in the girls triple jump; and Avery Thornton, fourth in both the 800-meter run and the girls triple jump.

Crockett will be competing in the West Sectionals May 5-7.

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

Boys 100 Meters: Deuce Greenhill, 3rd (11.40); Zay Jones, 12th (11.93); DK Woods, 18th (12.12).

Boys 200 Meters: Zay Jones, 16th (25.04); Titus Luten, 17th (25.15).

Boys 400 Meters: Christian Buchanan, 22nd (1:03.37).

Boys 800 Meters: Uriel Diaz, 11th (2:31.95).

Boys 1600 Meters: Aidan Klonowski, 4th (5:03.84); Uriel Diaz, 14th (5:45.27); Mase Utley, 18th (6:01.68).

Boys 110 Hurdles: Titus Luten, 3rd (17.47).

Boys 300 Hurdles: Laithon Bonds, 1st (43.08 – new CCHS record).

Boys 4x100 Relay: Crockett, 4th (45.47).

Boys High Jump: Mason Dennis, T-4th (5-8); Titus Luten, 12th (5-0).

Boys Long Jump: Deuce Greenhill, T-6th (18-2.5); Zay Jones, 12th (16-7).

Boys Triple Jump: Laithon Bonds, 3rd (40-10.5).

Boys Discus: Avery Hurst, 15th (85-1.5).

Boys Shot Put: Josh Simmons, 15th (29-3); Jeremiah Grant, 22nd (21-8).

Girls 100 Meters: Madi Collins, 11th (13.93); Lillian Muschkat, 26th (16.02).

Girls 200 Meters: Madi Collins, T-13th (29.90).

Girls 800 Meters: Avery Thornton, 4th (2:41.21); Claire Evans, 6th (2:48.24).

Girls 1600 Meters: Alivia Hale, 4th (6:31.36); Claire Nichols, 9th (7:57.75).

Girls 3200 Meters: Alivia Hale, 3rd (14:08.69).

Girls 300 Hurdles: Addie Davidson, 6th (57.48).

Girls 4x100 Relay: Crockett, 9th (1:01.39).

Girls 4x200 Relay: Crockett, 7th (2:08.72).

Girls 4x400 Relay: Crockett, 3rd (4:51.07).

Girls 4x800 Relay: Crockett, 3rd (11:28.57).

Girls Long Jump: Claire Evans, T-9th (12-10).

Girls Triple Jump: Addie Davidson, 3rd (28-7.5); Avery Thornton, 4th (27-10).

Girls Discus: Julia Finley, 11th (47-11).

Girls Shot Put: Julia Finley, 12th (22-7).

**BASKETBALL:** Crockett post player Amaria Walker – who also shocked the world in the fall by stepping between the posts as the goalkeeper on the Lady Cavalier soccer team – signed an athletic grant-in-aid to play basketball at Fisk University of Nashville in a special ceremony Thursday at the high school.

Walker was surrounded by family members, coaches, and teammates from both the soccer and basketball teams. She said she was referred to Fisk by her AAU coach, and when the university followed up on the referral, Walker arranged a visit that resulted in the offer.

The quiet but affable senior was saluted in the ceremony by basketball coach Kayla Irvin and soccer coaches Carli Branson and Joey Soriano. All three praised Walker’s humility, her coachability, and her desire to be a good teammate.

“I wish I knew how many points the opponents didn’t score because of Amaria’s defense in the middle,” Irvin said, “and I wish I knew how many points our other girls scored because an opponent was double-teaming Amaria. The things she did for us didn’t always show up in the stat sheets, but people who know the game could see them.”

When Branson resumed the girls soccer coaching duties just before the summer, she had no idea who would be playing the goalkeeper position in place of the graduating Hannah Johnson (who was at Walker’s signing ceremony). But she quickly learned that several of her players spent much of the summer training Walker to do it, even though (like Johnson before her) she had never played soccer until starting to practice for the keeper position.

“We couldn’t believe how quickly she adapted to the position,” Branson said. “It wasn’t immediate, but it was pretty fast. If she ever made a mistake, she would look over at the coaches and just smile; it was her way of letting us know it wasn’t going to happen again. You could just see her confidence grow throughout the season.”

Soriano lauded Walker’s openness to be coached and challenged her to approach her career at Fisk with the mindset that she was getting to continue to play the game she’s loved since she was a kid.

“We know you’ll work hard, because you always do,” he said, “but remember to have fun while you’re doing it. That can make a big difference in someone’s college experience.”

**SOFTBALL:** Coach Baron Jimmerson’s resilient Lady Cavaliers immediately bounced back from their heartbreaking loss to Dyer County Tuesday by traveling to Munford Thursday evening and defeating the Cardinals 7-2 as they scored their first four runs on two errors and a passed ball.

When Gracie Williams belted a solo homer in the bottom of the sixth to draw Munford within 4-2, it was time for the visitors to break out some offense.

Wesley Thornton led off the seventh with a long triple to right field for Crockett, and scored when Madison Stitts reached on another error on her sacrifice bunt. Maddie Haynes followed with a single, and one out later – after Stitts stole third and Haynes stole second – Piper Smith delivered a sacrifice fly deep enough to score Stitts and move courtesy runner Chloe Adkisson over to third. Kiyra Liggins then pinch-hit and delivered a sharp double to left, bringing Adkisson home with the seventh run.

Freshman pitcher Emmalynn Medlin then set the Cardinals down in order in the bottom of the frame to finish off a complete-game four-hitter in which she struck out four and walked no one. Medlin needed just 71 pitches to zip through her seven innings of work.

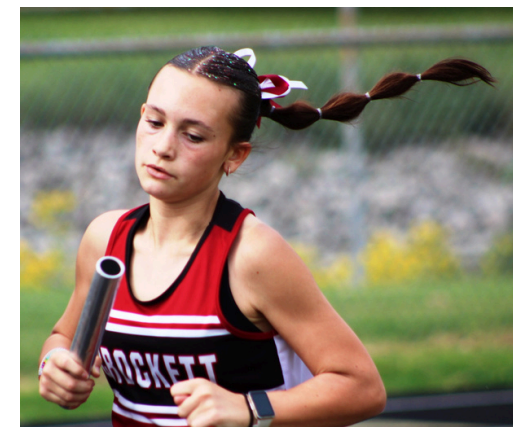
Piper White had three hits for the winners and Thornton added two; both had triples in the contest. Leadoff hitter Hannah Carter had a hit and a walk and scored twice for Crockett, which improved to 24-8 on the season.

The Lady Cavs will host South Gibson Monday in another key district battle.

**Below:** Julia Finley. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Alivia Hale. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Following are several members of the Crockett track & field team that competed Thursday at the Union City Rotary Relays. First up: 300-meter hurdles winner Laithon Bonds, who broke his own school record with a run of 43.08. (Photo by Ron Barry)





**Above:** Addie Davidson and Avery Thornton. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Mason Dennis. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Titus Lutén. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Deuce Greenhill. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Uriel Diaz. (photo by Ron Barry)

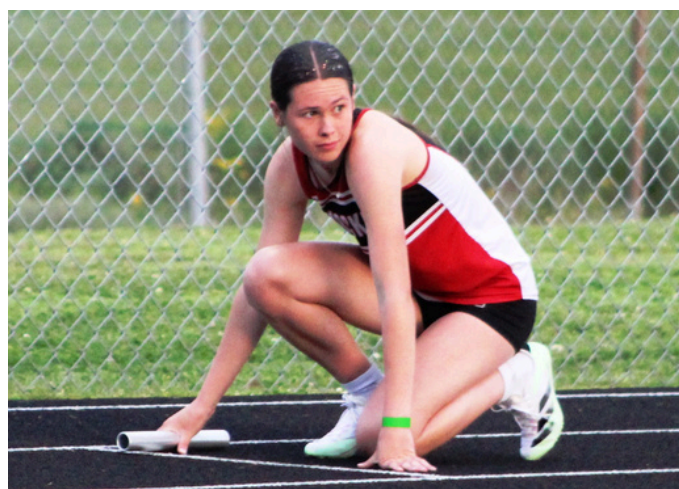


**Below:** Mase Utley. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Avery Hurst. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Madi Collins. (Photo by Ron Barry)







Above: Cristal Martinez. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Lillian Muschkat. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Zay Jones. (Photo by Ron Barry)



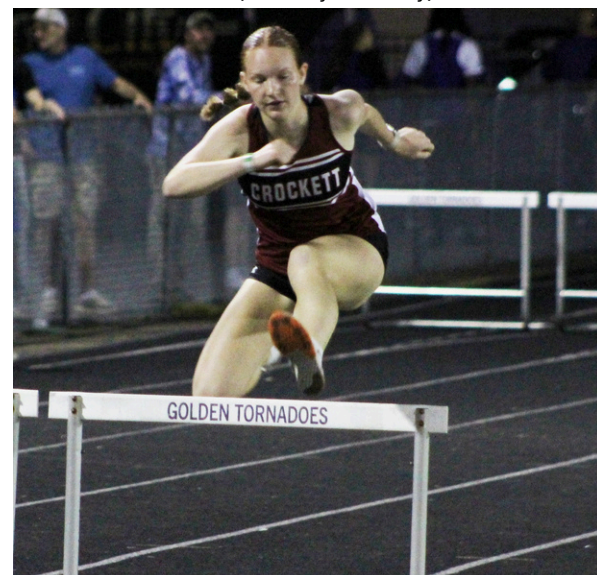
Above: Avery Thornton. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Mason Dennis. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Addie Davidson (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Deuce Greenhill and DK Woods. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Amaria Walker -- surrounded by her family -- signs a grant-in-aid to play basketball at Fisk University in the fall. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Amaria Walker with her Crockett basketball teammates. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Amaria Walker with her Crockett soccer teammates. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Two pretty good basketball players -- AND soccer goalkeepers: Amaria Walker & Hannah Johnson.



**Above:** Freshman Emmalynn Medlin pitched a complete-game four-hitter Thursday to help the Lady Cavaliers topple Munford 7-2. (Photo by Ron Barry)