

SUMMER TEAMMATES SPARK CROCKETT'S 8-1 BASEBALL VICTORY AT DYERSBURG



Above: Two doubles, a solo home run, and a walk: Dyersburg never got Brady Fronabarger out Wednesday, and he scored four times in the Cavaliers' 8-1 victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)

By Ron Barry

This past summer, Carter Winders and Brady Fronabarger were mainstays on a 16U travel baseball team that won a national championship tournament.

Wednesday evening at Dyersburg, they played like that again.

Both juniors at Crockett County, Winders had a single and double, drove in two runs, and pitched a complete-game five hitter with 10 strikeouts, while Fronabarger slammed two doubles and a solo home run and scored four times as the Cavaliers pounded the district rival Trojans 8-1, breaking a five-game losing streak.

As impressive as the summer teammates were, they had plenty of help in this one. Leadoff hitter Callan Willis had a single and triple and knocked in two runs, and both Preston Lambert and George Randall collected three hits apiece.

Winders – usually the team's starting catcher – threw almost 70 percent of his 104 pitches for strikes and didn't yield an extra-base hit as Crockett improved its season record to 12-11 and evened its district mark at 4-4.

The visiting Cavs jumped on the scoreboard first with a two-out rally in the top of the opening frame. Fronabarger drew a walk and Winders followed with a first-pitch line-drive single to center, where it was misplayed by outfielder Logan Cohen, allowing Fronabarger to come all the way around to score.

Crockett tallied two more two-out runs in the second. Lambert led off with a line-drive single to right but was caught stealing. Randall also smacked a line-drive single to right but was still at first an out later. Sam Proctor drew a walk, and Willis followed with a liner to center that was again misplayed by Cohen, allowing both runners to race home for a 3-0 Cav advantage.

Crockett struck again in the third when Fronabarger led off with a double to center and scored when Winders lined a shot that was misplayed by right fielder Caleb Henning. That put the Cavs up 4-0 and offset the lone run scored by the hosts, when a walk was sandwiched by two singles. But Winders struck out the last two batters in the inning to keep Crockett comfortably ahead.

That comfort increased in the fifth. Fronabarger again led off with a double and tallied when Winders matched it. Lambert singled Winders home to make it 6-1, although the Cavs left the bases loaded when the third out was recorded.

Winders pitched around a single and an infield error in the Dyersburg fifth, and the visitors' lead increased in the sixth when Fronabarger blasted a home run to left field that brought his total base count for the day to eight.

The Cavs completed their scoring with another tally in the seventh. Lambert singled to center and came all the way around to score on a double to center by freshman Randall. Winders struck out two of the three Trojan hitters in the bottom of the frame, and the ballgame was over.

Crockett's next scheduled action is Friday at Jackson South Side.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: All that may be standing between a CCMS regional championship berth and a slot in the third-place game is a couple of inches of the circumference of a soccer ball.

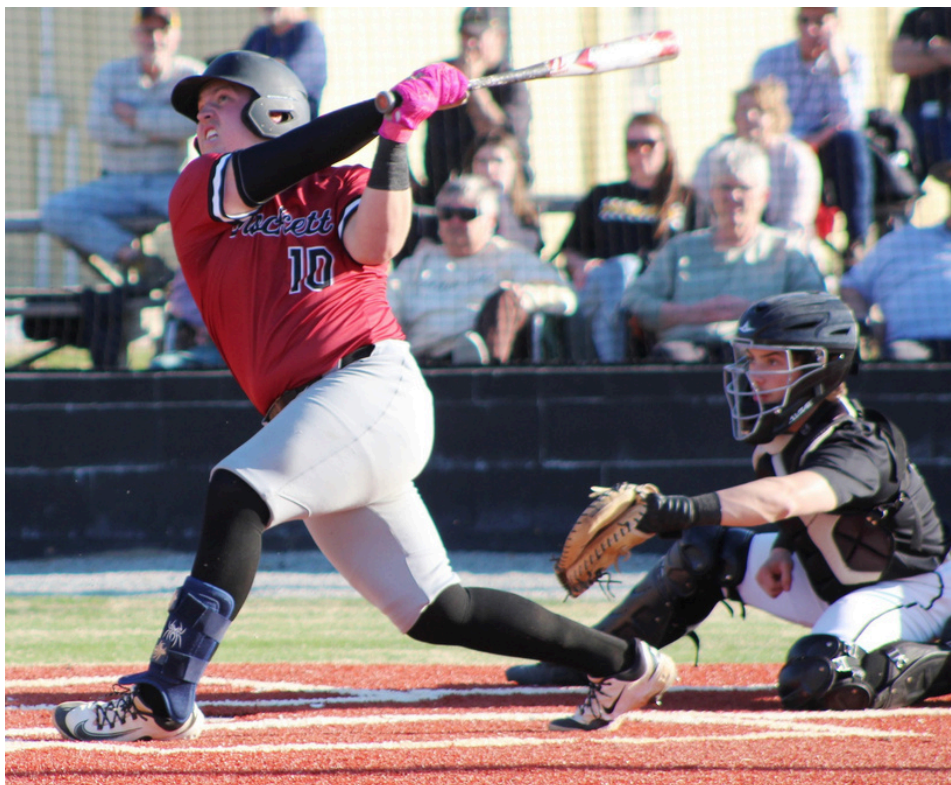
The middle school Cavaliers dropped a 2-1 decision to host Dyersburg Wednesday evening after a possible first-half goal by Damian Marquez was disallowed when the official ruled the ball never crossed completely over the goal line. Instead of a berth in the title game, Crockett will settle for a battle for third place with Augustine School, set for Saturday morning at 11:00 at Jackson Christian School.

The Cavs thought they had taken the first lead when Dyersburg's goalkeeper found himself out of position when Marquez took his shot, but the ruling that the ball had not crossed all the way past the goal line kept the contest in a scoreless deadlock until two Dyersburg counter attacks produced goals at the 12:00 and 10:00 marks of the opening half.

The hosts concentrated on protecting their margin throughout the second half, dropping into defensive mode as Crockett controlled the ball most of the final period, finally breaking the shutout when a hand ball was called with six minutes left to play.

Marquez converted the ensuing penalty kick to make it 2-1, but the retreated Trojan defense continually kicked the ball out of their box for the remaining time on the clock and forced Crockett to play from the back line.

Henry Mayfield had two saves in goal for Crockett, which managed 11 shots on Dyersburg's net in the contest but couldn't capitalize.



Above: Carter Winders singled home a run in the first and doubled home another in the fifth, supporting his own complete-game five-hitter as a pitcher, as Crockett downed Dyersburg 8-1 Wednesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: George Randall continues to impress in his freshman season with the bat, recording three more hits against the Trojans Wednesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Shown here during cross-country season in the fall, Crockett athletes Avery Thornton (23) and Claire Evans (18) will likely be competing in multiple events as the track & field team heads for Union City Thursday for a 4 p.m. meet. (Photo by Ron Barry)

