

SEVERE STORM DELAYS TSSAA SPRING FLING; BONDS, SOCCER YET TO GET STARTED

By Ron Barry

The storm system that made its way through the Jackson area late Tuesday morning eventually arrived in Murfreesboro by late afternoon, wreaking havoc with the TSSAA Spring Fling schedule of events.

While the Crockett County girls' 4x800 relay team managed to complete its race at the Middle Tennessee State University track – finishing seventh, one notch above its 2024 showing – hurdler Laithon Bonds and the Cavalier soccer team were victims of a sudden storm that featured torrential rains and straight-line winds that blew all the tents and sponsor signage completely off of the soccer fields.

Bonds' 300-meter hurdle race was postponed until today. As the second event on the list of races yet to be completed, he is expected to get into action around 12:20 p.m. at the Dean Hayes Track Stadium.

Meanwhile, Coach Joey Soriano's soccer squad was first delayed by an overtime match on the field Crockett was to use at the Siegel Soccer Complex. By the time the Cavaliers and Fulton, their opponents, were warmed up, the contest was already running an hour behind. Then, when both teams were lined up for the traditional opening greeting, the lightning sirens activated – meaning at least another 30-minute delay.

Officials herded all the teams and spectators into the large building onsite that hosts a full-size indoor soccer pitch, and before the lightning delay had expired, everything not bolted down outside was seen blowing past the large open door of the building, with sideways rain and a brief round of hail that rattled the roof.

The TSSAA finally decided the situation was not likely to improve much, and reset the schedule. Crockett and Fulton will now begin at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, still on Field #2. If the Cavs record a victory, they'd play again Thursday at 4:30.

Crockett's 4x800 relay team bested Raleigh-Egypt of Memphis, but again was no match for East Tennessee powerhouse Signal Mountain, winner of the race by a huge margin. But for a team without a training track yet, the Lady Cav quartet of Alivia Hale, Addie Davidson, Claire Evans, and anchor Avery Thornton still made a positive showing.



Above: Freshman Alivia Hale ran the opening leg for Crockett's 4x800 relay at the TSSAA State Meet in Murfreesboro. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Addie Davidson took the baton for the second leg. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Claire Evans produced the third station of the relay for Crockett. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Anchorwoman Avery Thornton handled the final two laps for the Lady Cavs, ensuring the run for seventh place in the State. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett's quartet was all smiles once they hit the medal stand. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: This was Avery Thornton's view heading into the final stretch and facing wind gusts of more than 30 miles per hour. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Laithon Bonds will run his 300-meter hurdles race sometime around 12:20 p.m. Wednesday after storms postponed the event Tuesday evening. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: This was as close as Crockett's soccer team got to getting to play Tuesday evening. Once the teams turned to form the opening greeting line, the weather sirens sounded. So the Cavs will duel Fulton at 11:30 Wednesday morning instead. (Photo by Ron Barry)