

# FIRST TOURNAMENT COMEBACK STEP TAKEN; CROCKETT TEAMS EACH NEED TWO MORE WINS

By Ron Barry

They're the two most glorious verbs in post-season play: survive and advance.

With their backs against the wall, facing a "win or go home" result, and no room for error - heck, let's just use all the proverbial clichés right up front - both the softball and baseball teams from Crockett County lived to fight another day.

Both had been banished to the District 13-AAA Tournament losers brackets right off the bat Thursday, and thus needed to each win three games in a row to ensure a Region 7-AAA Tournament berth when it gets underway. But after heavy rains pushed Friday's schedule to Saturday, both used the extra day to reset well and posted victories over Obion County Central, with softball winning 5-0 and baseball 10-0.

So both teams will now play Monday against Dyersburg as the district event continues in Newbern.

**SOFTBALL:** Coach Baron Jimmerson made a couple of adjustments after round one, swapping outfield positions between Hannah Carter and Gabby Bursey and moving Bursey up to second in the batting order offensively. The latter strategy paid off in the fifth inning of a tight game when Bursey sliced a two-run, ground-ball double that hugged the third-base and left-field line long enough for courtesy runner Fallon Beard and Carter to score, making it 5-0, Crockett.

It capped a three-run rally ignited by a two line-drive singles to center by Sadie Hoover and Madison Solis. Chloe Adkisson ran for Hoover and promptly stole second, taking third on the Solis hit - her second in as many trips to the plate.



**Left:** Freshman Emmalynn Medlin came up big for Crockett softball Saturday in Newbern, throwing six shutout innings at Obion County in the District 13-AAA Tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Beard ran for Solis and took second on a wild pitch. Carter bunted back to Obion pitcher Audum Neblett, who faked throwing to first and then spun to try to pick Adkisson off third. But Adkisson - caught in a rundown - timed her reversal toward the plate perfectly and caused an errant throw, allowing her to score. Bursey then delivered her clutch double.

The contest began as a pitching duel between Obion's Neblett and Crockett freshman Emmalynn Medlin, who stepped up big-time for Jimmerson's crew. After running into some control problems the last time she faced the Lady Rebels. This time, however, Medlin was stellar, tossing six frames of two-hit, shutout softball before Anna Stallings entered to finish the final inning.

Neither team scored in the first three frames, and after Medlin retired Obion in the top of the fourth, Piper White finally got the Lady Cavaliers going when she slammed a leadoff double halfway up the fence in left-center. Wesley Thornton followed with a sharp single to right, plating White the game's first tally.

Thornton took second on the throw to the plate and then stole third, setting up Maddie Haynes' groundout to produce the second run.

Solis was the only player for either team to collect two hits, although White was 1-for-1 with a couple of walks and four stolen bases. Solis also gunned down an Obion base stealing attempt while keeping Medlin focused. The freshman righthander only issued one walk, struck out two, and fielded the middle well, handling three groundouts right back to her and turning a double play on a line drive.

Jimmerson's club is now 27-9 and will try to defeat Dyersburg Monday for the third time this season.

**BASEBALL:** Just one day after signing to continue his baseball career at Bethel University, Cav senior Tyler Rathbun showed the Wildcats what they might expect from him as he twirled a one-hit shutout at the Obion Rebels. Rathbun didn't walk anybody and struck out three, needing just 44 pitches to get 15 outs - with 34 strikes - and lowered his season earned run average to an even 2.00.

On the offensive side for interim coach Cody Dew, Crockett scored in all four innings it batted, including a six-run uprising in the second, highlighted by run-scoring singles from the Fronabarger brothers, Brady and Landry. The Cavs scored in the opening frame on a bases-loaded groundout by Bryson Vance.

Crockett tallied twice more in the third on a Carter Winders double and a Cade Freeman groundout. The tenth run came in the fourth on a Rebel infield error.

Brady Fronabarger paced the attack with a 2-for-4 day, scoring three runs, driving in another, and stealing a base. Mason Ray walked twice, stole two bases, and scored twice. Aiden Austin had a hit, a walk, and three steals. Crockett is playing without two of its starting infielders, as Karson Kail is sidelined after thumb surgery and George Randall is in concussion protocol.

The Cavs resume their attempted run through the losers bracket Monday against Dyersburg. Crockett is 14-12 on the season.

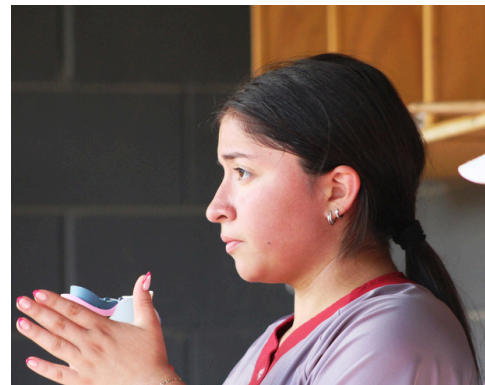


**Above:** ...and then celebrates with the Lady Cavs' newest pose as the scoreboard reflects that it's been a tough day for the hitters thus far. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Left:** The string of zeros ended with Wesley Thornton's run-scoring single in the fourth, and the freshman got a hand slap from Piper Smith upon her return to the dugout. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Left:** Right next door on the baseball field, Crockett's Tyler Rathbun tossed a one-hit, five-inning shutout gem against the Rebels' baseball team, keeping the Cavs' season alive. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Madison Solis showed strong senior leadership Saturday, going 2-for-2 at the plate, catching Emmalynn Medlin expertly, and gunning down the only base stealer who tried it. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Piper White finally got the Lady Cav offense going in the fourth, leading off by launching this long double that hit halfway up the left-centerfield fence. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Piper White watches her long double hit off the fence as she begins to race out of the batters box Saturday in the District 13-AAA Tournament... (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** On Obion's base stealing attempt, Madison Solis got the ball so quickly to shortstop Piper White that she's already made the tag and she's beginning to return to the dugout as the slide is just beginning. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Gabby Burseley delivered a big two-run double in the fifth to give Crockett some breathing room, and she got in on the posing game as well. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** In the baseball game, Brady Fronabarger went 2-for-4, scored three times, and drove in a run for the victorious Cavaliers in the District 13-AAA Tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Freshman Landry Fronabarger contributed a run-scoring single for the Cavaliers, who improved to 14-12 on the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Aiden Austin stole three bases, scored a run, and collected a hit and a walk. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Shortstop Mason Ray walked twice, stole two bases, and scored twice for the Cavaliers in their 10-0 trouncing of Obion County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Catcher Carter Winders provided a run-scoring double for Crockett, which will now take on Dyersburg Monday night in another elimination game. (Photo by Ron Barry)