

# MCCOY, SAVAGE KEEP MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL ROLLING TO A TERRIFIC START



Above: Coach Kail (Photo by Ron Barry)

## By Ron Barry

Crockett County School District Athletic Director Duke Kail is widely commended by his colleagues for his diligence to detail and the vast amount of time he invests to ensure that all the sports have their calendars straight, fields and gymnasiums ready, and administration covered.

But in the early “fall” (which is actually summer), Kail has his own head coaching gig to worry about. In addition to everything else he does as athletic director and head groundskeeper for the main campus, he carves out enough time to direct the middle school softball program.

On Tuesday, Kail’s Lady Cavaliers won their fourth game in five starts as Anna McCoy and Kyndall Savage knocked in three runs apiece in a 15-3 rout of Gibson County. Kail’s crew has already notched impressive victories over Trinity Christian Academy and University School of Jackson, along with a triumph over Henry County. Only a tight 3-1 loss to Camden – in Crockett’s third game of the day in the season-opening tournament in Milan – clouds the Lady Cav record.

Here’s a complete recap of the team’s impressive start to the 2025 season:

**Game #1 (Aug. 9 at Milan Tournament):** Crockett took down TCA 5-1 as Addison Ward, Lily Cole, Kambri Hughes, and Caroline Neal drove in runs to back effective pitching by Neal and Abbey McAnulty. The Lady Cavs managed just four singles offensively in their two innings of at-bats, but took advantage of four walks and two TCA errors to gain the advantage. Neal and McAnulty combined for three frames of one-run ball and didn’t issue a base on balls.

**Game #2 (Aug. 9 at Milan Tournament):** Crockett tallied two runs in each of the second, third, and fourth innings to defeat Henry County 6-1 behind the one-hit pitching of Ava Goad. Cole smacked a double and triple for the winners and was the lone player in the lineup with two hits. Neal, Mahaley Hicks, and Khylee Cobb joined Cole with RBIs in the contest. Neal and Piper Ledford also had triples.

**Game #3 (Aug. 9 at Milan Tournament):** In the lone blemish on the Lady Cav slate thus far, Camden eked out a 3-1 win, making a three-run first inning stand up throughout the five-frame duel. Savage drove in Crockett’s only run with a fifth-inning double, and Ledford, McCoy, and McAnulty contributed the other Lady Cav hits. After Camden’s first-frame rally, starting pitcher Ledford shut them down for the next three innings and Evie Davidson added a scoreless stanza of relief in the fifth.

**Game #4 (Aug. 11 at USJ):** Cobb smashed a dramatic two-out triple to break a final-inning tie and then scored herself when the throw back to the infield eluded the second baseman, sparking Crockett to a 4-2 win. Cobb’s triple drove home Makenleigh Cuevas, who had reached on an infield error. Neal went the distance in the pitching circle for the winners, scattering nine USJ hits and not issuing a walk. Cobb had a run-scoring double in addition to her game-deciding triple, and Ledford also contributed two hits. McCoy drove in a run for the Lady Cavs.

**Game #5 (Aug. 12 at Crockett):** Kail’s club drilled Gibson County 15-3 as McCoy and Savage combined for five hits and six RBIs. McCoy was 3-for-3, stole two bases, and scored twice. Neal also had two safeties for Crockett and Cole added a double. Ledford got the pitching victory with 3.2 innings of shutout relief, recording eight of her outs by strikeout.

Crockett’s next scheduled game is Monday at home against South Gibson.