COOLER TEMPERATURES (?) MAY BRING SPORTS SCHEDULES BACK TO NORMAL THURSDAY

By Ron Barry

With Hurricane Erin churning out in the Atlantic Ocean somewhere right now, somehow it's altering the local weather pattern – at least temporarily – in such a way as to be welcomed gratefully by sports fans.

The projected high temperature for Thursday is "only" 85 degrees, with Friday's high mark forecasted at 87. That means originally scheduled times for the outdoor sports may actually be accurate in a season thus far hampered by delays while field conditions became less sweltering. Two golf matches have already been canceled by heat.

The only "fall" sport team that hasn't had to worry about it is Crockett's volleyball squad, which will be after its third consecutive victory when it hosts Obion County Thursday evening. Coach Andrew Laman's unit is fresh off a commanding 3-0 triumph at Westview in Martin Tuesday night in which the senior-heavy Lady Cavaliers won all three sets by the same 25-15 margin.

Also in action Thursday afternoon will be Crockett's Lady Cav soccer team, which will try to get its offense unlocked in a 5:00 home matchup with Jackson North Side. Coach Carli Branson's girls forged a 0-0 tie at Huntingdon in their season opener Monday night, getting outstanding play from the defensive unit and freshman goalkeeper Hannah Wede, who made 10 saves.

On Thursday, Crockett hopes to see if seasoned offensive players such as Rebecca Waddey, Braniya Green, Avery Thornton, and Emme Grace Martin can pop a ball or two into the net after experiencing Huntingdon's sticky pressure Monday night. The game is scheduled for Crockett's grass field.



Left: Caroline Scruggs (5) is one of a handful of freshmen that have been thrown straight into the varsity fire this season for Crockett's soccer team, which hosts North Side Thursday. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: Addie Davidson and her volleyball teammates will be seeking their third straight win when they host Obion County Thursday evening. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Also on campus Thursday will be Crockett Middle School's softball girls, hosting Huntingdon in a 5:30 duel in which they'll be trying to bounce back from a 9-7 defeat to Lexington – all on unearned runs – as they work to improve on their 5-2 season record. Coach Duke Kail's club had won three in a row before the defensive meltdown against Lexington.

While the Lady Tigers pounded 14 hits in that contest, it was the four errors by the suddenly-leaky defense that opened the floodgates for the visitors. Crockett managed just six hits, with Piper Ledford and Lily Cole contributing two apiece. Cole had a triple and Caroline Neal a double for the Lady Cavs, and Ledford drove in two runs.

If the cooler temperatures hold through Friday, that night's season-opening high school football game with Memphis Middle College will get its customary 7:00 kickoff time at Cavalier Stadium. The visitors don't have a large squad, but they went 9-3 with a similar group a year ago and Coach Kevin Ward certainly isn't expecting things to be easy for the Cavaliers.



Above: Katherine West (left) and Keeton Holyfield are two of the reasons that Crockett's front line play provides a solid test for any opponent this season. (Photo by Ron Barry)