

LADY CAV TRIO & AIDAN KLONOWSKI MEDAL IN CROCKETT XC MEET; VOLLEYBALLERS TOP TCA

By Ron Barry

Crockett County cross-country coach Julie Nass admitted that maybe the day after the long Labor Day weekend is not the best time to stage a 5K (3.1-mile) race.

But you have to find open dates on the crowded fall calendar when nobody else has already claimed a host role for an invitational meet, so September 2 it was for Crockett.

And while no Cavalier or Lady Cav runner achieved a personal best time – which, again, Nass ascribed to the calendar – a Crockett girls trio and Aidan Klonowski, the boys leading racer, earned medals in Tuesday's meet at CCHS in a run that featured participants from 24 different schools. Nass was particularly proud of her entire girls squad after the top five Lady Cavs placed in the race's Top 25. Avery Thornton was 11th, Alivia Hale 13th, and Claire Evans 14th to earn individual medals, while freshmen Caroline Scruggs (23rd) and Marley Thornton (25th) barely missed. The team finished third overall behind West Tennessee powerhouses Obion County Central and McKenzie.

Abigail Wallace of McKenzie was the individual winner, covering the distance in 20:04.32 to beat Fayette-Ware's Abby Hughes (21:21.33) by more than a minute.

On the boys side, Crockett's Klonowski posted a career-best fifth-place finish with a run of 18:51.69, tucking himself within the pack of Union City racers which claimed the team title. Crockett's boys were ninth overall.

"Coming off the Labor Day weekend, everybody is out of their routines," Nass said. "I think that's why nobody was really setting any personal records, along with the 90-degree heat being a factor. But Aidan ran a great race. We're trying really hard this season to qualify him for the State meet. I think he has a really good chance. He's worked so hard over the summer."



Left: Crockett's girls finished third overall (out of the 24 represented schools). From left: Avery Thornton, Caroline Scruggs, Kate "Sparkplug" Davis, Hannah Wede, Marley Thornton, Alicia Hale, and Claire Evans. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Nass was also pleased with the girls team showing. "To have three medalists – and two more just barely miss – is very encouraging for the rest of the season," she said. Nass had one runner for each of her squads out with injuries suffered in soccer: Uriel Diaz for the guys and Catherine Scruggs for the girls. "Hopefully we can get them back soon," she said.

Official results of the Crockett County Invitational:

Boys Individual Top 10: (1) Jonathan Lewis, South Gibson 17:12.92; (2) Blaine Todd, Huntingdon 17:32.07; (3) Cael Mathis, Henry County 17:44.02; (4) Rushdon Hall, Union City 18:37.39; (5) Aidan Klonowski, Crockett County 18:51.69; (6) Madix Turner, UC 18:57.03; (7) Miloh Turner, UC 19:22.62; (8) Hayden Blakley, Obion Co 19:34.39; (9) Reese Harber, Dyer Co. 19:51.07; (10) Owen Waggoner, UC 20:02.34. Other Crockett runners: (41) Hutsen Stephens 22:16.81; (48) Jose Diaz 22:52.97; (71) Mase Utley 24:33.40; (82) Leck Lucky 25:36.18. Total Runners: 132.

Boys Team Scores: (1) Union City 57; (2) Huntingdon 95; (3) Obion County 102; (4) South Gibson 114; (5) Madison Academic 158; (6) Henry County 171; (7) Milan 186; (8) USJ 202; **(9) Crockett County 205;** (10) Lexington 207; (11) McKenzie 211; (12) Fayette-Ware 308. Other Schools: Dyer County, McNairy Central, Covington, Augustine, WTEA, Jackson North Side, Bolivar Central, JCM, Jackson South Side, Haywood, Scotts Hill, Dyersburg. Total Schools Represented: 24.

Girls Individual Top 15: (1) Abigail Wallace, McKenzie 20:04.32; (2) Abby Hughes, F-W 21:21.33; (3) Emeri Lee, Obion Co 22:33.00; (4) Madison Holder, HR-Bruceton 22:49.63; (5) Klicey Campbell, Obion 22:54.01; (6) Autumn Haywood, McKenzie 23:13.11; (7) Ainsley Sadler, Union City 23:33.40; (8) Brylee Patrick, Obion 23:34.52; (9) Bella Sass, McKenzie 24:08.54; (10) Addyson Kirkland, USJ 24:18.51; (11) Avery Thornton, Crockett Co 24:24.99; (12) Ainsley Beard, UC 24:35.54; (13) Alivia Hale, Crockett Co 24:35.77; (14) Claire Evans, Crockett Co 25:08.71; (15) Marlee Jo Shell, Henry Co 25:22.26. Other Crockett Runners: (23) Caroline Scruggs 26:43.49; (25) Marley Thornton 27:16.13; (51) Hannah Wede 32:20.71; (62) Kate Davis 35:07.68; (84) Trindyn Irvy 45:47.00. Total Runners: 86.

Girls Team Scores: (1) Obion County 31; (2) McKenzie 48; **(3) Crockett County 57;** (4) Huntingdon 107; (5) Lexington 133. Other Schools: Fayette-Ware, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, Union City, USJ, Henry County, McNairy Central, Dyer County, South Gibson, Augustine, WTEA, Covington, Dyersburg, Jackson South Side, Madison Academic, Haywood, JCS, Scotts Hill, Milan, Bolivar Central. Total Schools Represented: 24.

Crockett's next invitational meet is September 16 at the Lexington Soccer Complex.

VOLLEYBALL: After overcoming several errors in a first set they eventually won 25-23, Crockett's Lady Cavalier volleyballers blitzed host Trinity Christian Academy 25-8 and 25-16 in the next two to record a 3-0 sweep over the Lady Lions from Jackson.

"Our errors kept TCA in the match in the first set," Coach Andrew Laman said, "but in Set 2 and Set 3 we did a really good job of being disciplined on defense and being smart on offense. The front row put up great blocks and took advantage of the great sets that Lakyn (Forsythe) provided. The back row players were scrappy on defense and are continuing to improve each day. And, overall, we had a good serving match."

TCA had recently beaten Milan, which took Crockett to a five-setter last week before the Lady Cavs rallied to win the match.

"Not many complaints from tonight," Laman said after his squad improved to 10-2 for the season. "Hopefully we can be more consistent with this level of play."

Crockett travels to always-tough Dyersburg for its next encounter Thursday night.

GOLF: Jack Shaver, who was the medalist (with a 35 at Woodland Hills in Jackson) in a recent match with South Side that Crockett lost by just two strokes, duplicated that score to finish second individually as Crockett's golfers split a match with Dyer County and Trenton Peabody Tuesday at Oakview.

Dyer County, whose roster is deep and talented, had all four of its scorers shoot 36 or better in posting a team total of 140, while Coach Chris Eubanks' Cavs came in with a 171. Peabody's team carded a 195.

Crockett's rounds that supported Shaver were by George Randall (39), Clay Kail (46), and Max Woods (51). For Dyer County, Jamison Rhodes claimed medalist honors with a 33, while Miller Williams matched Shaver's 35 for a second-place tie. Jarrett Harrison and Beau Thurman each had a 36.

On the girls side, Crockett's Rachel Crossnoe continued to shine in her junior year, firing a medalist round of 38 as Crockett defeated both Dyer County and Peabody. Alyssa Stricklin's 53 gave the Lady Cavs a team score of 91, well ahead of Dyer County's 102 and Peabody's 123. The Lady Choctaws' Josie Ferguson was second to Crossnoe with a 46.

Eubanks announced one schedule change Tuesday. Rather than play in a Humboldt tournament September 8, Crockett's teams will compete in an 18-hole event at The Farms in Dyersburg on September 15.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL: Coach Duke Kail's Lady Cavaliers advanced their season record to 7-3 Tuesday by pounding Milan Middle School 10-2 behind a 12-hit attack that featured home runs from Khylee Cobb and Kyndall Savage.

Crockett scored four runs in the first inning and two in the second, fourth, and sixth frames to post the lopsided win. Piper Ledford went the pitching distance for the Lady Cavs, allowing just two hits and the two runs, which were both unearned.

Three Crockett players - Ledford, Savage, and Lily Cole - had two hits apiece. Cobb and Savage each drove in two runs, while Caroline Neal, Cole, and Makenleigh Cuevas added single RBIs. Neal and Cole each had triples in the contest.



Above: Aidan Klonowski turned in a superb run for the Cavaliers, placing a career-best fifth in an invitational meet. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Medalists from the girls division in Crockett's Invitational (from left): Alicia Hale, Avery Thornton, and Claire Evans. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: This picture illustrates the strategy of the girls race: Get out front fast and stay there. McKenzie's Abigail Wallace (far left) has already jumped ahead; she won the race. Emery Lee (176, right) finished third. Avery Thornton leads the Crockett contingent in the middle, and its first three girls medaled. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Crockett freshman Caroline Scruggs (middle) seems to be saying, "I know Obion's really good, so I'm just going to hang with these two for awhile!" Scruggs just missed a medal, placing 23rd. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Freshman Marley Thornton (left) comes roaring around a turn near the soccer field, chasing teammate Caroline Scruggs; both also play on the soccer team. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Aidan Klonowski's medal validated all the hard work he put in over the summer months, logging over 300 miles of training during the hottest time of the year. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Crockett's Jose Diaz sneaks up and prepares to fire past an Obion County runner in the boys race. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Leck Lucky (left) and Mase Utley (right) grind through the first mile-and-a-half on the 90-degree day Tuesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Volunteer race officials Callie Freeman (left) and Ruth Gourley made sure none of the runners cut the corner at the edge of the soccer field. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Crockett's volleyball team kept rolling Tuesday, and Coach Andrew Laman praised the setting of sophomore Lakyn Forsythe as one of the key reasons the Lady Cavs downed TCA in straight sets. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Steely-eyed (in this shot anyway!) Keeton Holyfield has been a Lady Cav mainstay in the front line, helping Crockett to a 10-2 record thus far. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jack Shaver has posted back-to-back under-par rounds of 35 in his last two outings for the Cavalier golfers. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Rachel Crossnoe lines up her ball before putting in a recent match. Crossnoe's 38 yesterday at Oakview gave her medalist honors in the girls division of a duel with Dyer County and Trenton Peabody. (Photo by Ron Barry)

