# VOLLEYBALLERS SPIKE WESTVIEW 3-0; CROSS COUNTRY EARNS 3 MEDALS IN MARTIN MEET




**Above:** Alivia Hale was Crockett's top finisher in the LHS Tiger Run at Lexington Tuesday, placing 14th in scorching 90+-degree heat. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Crockett County's volleyball team played a little Powerball with Martin Westview Tuesday night.

There were no floating ping pong balls or lottery tickets involved, just hard serves and harder kills, and Coach Andrew Laman's crew swept past the outgunned Lady Chargers in straight sets 25-6, 25-12, and 25-13.

The lopsided rout highlighted Tuesday sports action in Cavalier nation, which also featured Crockett's consistent cross-country trio – Alivia Hale, Claire Evans, and Avery Thornton – medaling again at the LHS Tiger Run in Lexington; and, on the down side, the Crockett County Middle School softball squad was defeated 10-0 by Lexington.

**VOLLEYBALL:** The Lady Cavaliers improved to 16-5, winning their third match in a row to counter a three-match losing skid from last week. None of the three sets was ever in doubt, even as Laman substituted liberally through half of the second and all of the third. Several reserves were able to log valuable minutes to gain experience for later matches.

Before that – and even alongside the newcomers – Crockett's power-blast band of Wesley Thornton, Deonna Cole, Madi Collins, Katherine West, and Keeton Holyfield pounded winner after winner through the blocking attempts by Westview. Lakyn Forsythe was providing the majority of the setting for the bombs, and joined Collins and Darcy Puffer in providing most of the hard serves the visitors couldn't return.

Laman's crew now heads to Milan for a tough rematch with the Lady Bulldogs, who extended Crockett to a five-setter earlier this season in Alamo before the Lady Cavs secured the triumph.




**Above:** Crockett's Ava Lee (22) -- flanked by teammates Carmen Claybrooks (13) and Lola Bailey (right) -- powers a slam past a Westview defender in Tuesday night's Lady Cavalier romp. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**CROSS-COUNTRY:** "I don't know what it is about this meet," Coach Julie Nass said of the trip to Martin, "but no matter when they have it, it's always scorching. And two miles of the course are running up and down the old airport runway where the heat just radiates off the blacktop. It's always a brutal race."

Still – braving the temperature that topped 90 degrees – Crockett's Hale, Evans, and Thornton medaled again, as they have in virtually every race the Lady Cavs have attended this season. That helped gain a third-place team finish for the girls.

Hale covered the 5K distance in 24:57.97, just one second ahead of Evans, as the pair grabbed 14th and 15th places out of 81 total runners. Not far behind them was Thornton, who finished 18th. The top 20 finishers received medals.

Backing up the big three were Caroline Scruggs (29th), Marley Thornton (37th), and Hannah Wede (63rd).

The Cav boys were missing top runner Aidan Klonowski, currently sidelined with shin splints, and used injured Hutsen Stephens as a one-mile pacesetter for the remaining runners, so the squad did not have the required five finishers to earn a team score. But Uriel Diaz came within seconds of a personal best time to claim 23rd place with a 20:18.88, and Jose Diaz did surpass his previous record with a 22:18.66 to finish 51st. Mase Utley also ran one of his best races, placing 63rd in 23:19.61.

"I told everyone it's probably not going to be a PR (personal record) day, because of the heat," Nass said, "it's a 'go for place' day. And the girls all ran about the same places they have been, though all of the field was a little slower than normal."

**Girls Team Scores:** (1) Obion County 33; (2) McKenzie 43; **(3) Crockett County 72**; (4) Hardin County 119; (5) Huntingdon 125; (6) South Gibson 136. Other schools with runners: Fayette-Ware, USJ, Union City, Lexington, Augustine, TCA, Brighton, WTEA, Haywood, Covington, JCS, Jackson South Side, Scotts Hill. Total Runners: 81.

**Girls Top 20 Individuals:** (1) Alaina Uselton, Westview 20:21.78; (2) Abby Hughes, F-W 20:51.45; (3) Abigail Wallace, McK 20:57.19; (4) Autumn Haywood, McK 21:32.11; (5) Ainsley Phillips, Westview 21:45.22; (6) Addyson Kirkland, USJ; (7) Emeri Lee, OC; ( Ainsley Sadler, UC; (9) Lauren Carpenter, HC; (10) Brylee Patrick, OC; (11) Klicey Campbell, OC; (12) Bella Sass, McK; (13) Avery Coffey, OC; (14) Alivia Hale, Crockett 24:57.97; (15) Claire Evans, Crockett 24:58.96; (16) Riley Moore, OC; (17) Millie Davis, Lex; (18) Avery Thornton, Crockett 25:34.32; (19) Adlee Sullivan, Greenfield; (20) Allisson Catalan, HC. Other Crockett runners: (29) Caroline Scruggs, 27:20.44; (37) Marley Thornton, 28:51.23; (63) Hannah Wede, 35:04.99.

**Boys Team Scores: (**1) Union City 56; (2) Huntingdon 66; (3) Obion County 99; (4) Westview 101; (5) South Gibson 129; (6) USJ 165; (7) Lexington 203; ( Hardin County 229; (9) McKenzie 236; (10) Milan 244; (11) Brighton 300; (12) TCA 301; (13) Fayette-Ware 319. Other schools with runners: Crockett County, Greenfield, Adamsville, Augustine, WTEA, Riverside, Clarksburg, Jackson South Side, Jackson North Side, Haywood, Scotts Hill, JCM. Total Runners: 148.




**Above:** Wesley Thornton shyly makes a face at the bench after powering a kill off a Westview defender's body during Tuesday night's rout. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Boys Top 10 Individuals:** (1) Jack Mantooth, Westview 15:52.31; (2) Jonathan Lewis, SGC 16:12.95; (3) Blaine Todd, Hunt 16:55.25; (4) Rushdon Howell, UC 17:37.84; (5) Madix Turner, UC 17:46.26; (6) Deegan Arant, Greenfield; (7) Miloh Turner, UC; ( Shawn Simpson, Hunt; (9) Jackson Woodrough, Westview; (10) Hayden Blakley, OC. Crockett County runners: (23) Uriel Diaz, 20:18.88; (51) Jose Diaz, 22:18.66; (68) Mase Utley, 23:19.61; (89) Leck Lucky, 25:03.71.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL:** Coach Duke Kail has lamented the up-and-down inconsistency of his offense this season, and Tuesday produced another dip on the roller-coaster as Lexington stopped the Lady Cavs on just two hits – both by Kyndall Savage – to score the victory.

The host Lady Tigers used an eight-run third inning to salt the game away by virtue of the mercy rule. Crockett dropped to 8-6 for the season.



**Above:** Lady Cav senior Deonna Cole was her usual enthusiastic self Tuesday night as she and her teammates easily disposed of Westview on the volleyball court. (Photo by Ron Barry)




**Above:** Claire Evans was just a second behind Alivia Hale and finished 15th in Tuesday's LHS Tiger Run at Lexington, helping the Lady Cavs to a third-place team placement. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Right**: Madi Collins was serving some power bombs Tuesday against Westview, helping lead Crockett to a lopsided rout over the Lady Chargers. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Jose Diaz rounds a corner with several other runners in a recent race. Diaz recorded his personal best time despite the blazing heat Tuesday at the LHS Tiger Run. (Photo by Ron Barry)




**Left:** Emilee Chandler (4) looks like she's waiting for a lob pass to dunk a basketball, but she's actually executing a block in Tuesday night's volleyball match. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Right:** Avery Thornton was the third Lady Cavalier runner to medal at the LHS Tiger Run at Lexington Tuesday, finishing in 18th place. (Photo by Ron Barry)









**Left:** Lakyn Forsythe's smooth sets and hard serves have been key reasons for Crockett's 16-5 record thus far this season. (Photo by Ron Barry)






**Above:** Katherine West (3) chuckles as she helps Addie Davidson off the floor after an unsuccessful dive on a dig attempt. Audrey Whitby (10) looks on, trying not to laugh. (Photo by Ron Barry)




**Above:** Freshman Lola Bailey makes an over-the-shoulder save to keep a ball in play for the Lady Cavaliers Tuesday night against Westview. (Photo by Ron Barry)







**Left:** Keeton Holyfield (14) and Presley Lewis (30) throw up a double block against a Westview kill attempt in Tuesday's Lady Cavalier victory. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Far Left:** Katherine West (3) powers a putaway to keep Crockett rolling to an easy win Tuesday night against the Lady Chargers. (Photo by Ron Barry)