

BIG WIN BY CROCKETT AND NORTH SIDE SET UP KEY REGION 7-4A BATTLE ON FRIDAY



Above: Crockett junior Titus Luten's first pass reception of the season -- on the game's first play from scrimmage from quarterback Ben Burgess -- went for a 58-yard touchdown and set the tone for the Cavaliers' rout of Hardin County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Two lopsided wins Friday night. A full stockyard of skill players. The memory of a 36-34 game a year ago that came down to the very last play. And a tie at the top of the current TSSAA Region 7-4A football standings.

All signs point to the upcoming matchup between Crockett County and Jackson North Side as the potential "Game of the Year" in the battle for a solid playoff seed.

And, it should be added, at least for this week. Because all signs also point to a topsy-turvy full season in the newly-aligned, eight-team grouping.

Coach Kevin Ward's Cavaliers did what they had to do against Hardin County Friday, stomping the visiting Tigers 38-7 with a dominant first half and somewhat content to let a running clock speed them through a nondescript second half. Meanwhile -- in Newbern -- North Side broke open a 21-21 deadlock and steamrolled Dyer County 56-27.

That means that four teams -- Crockett, North Side, Dyer County, and Lexington -- are now tied at the top of the Region standings with 2-1 records, and there's an interesting mix of results that produced the logjam. Crockett beat Lexington; Lexington beat North Side; North Side beat Dyer County; and Dyer County beat Crockett.

www.crockettcavs.net

"There's still a long way to go and a lot of football to be played," Coach Kevin Ward said Friday after his club's victory. "We bounced back from the Dyer County loss in the best way. But now we need to sustain that same level of attention to detail and concentration all this week in practice, because North Side is a very, very good football team."

That "very, very good football team" is led by a large group of senior players in key positions, highlighted by the triumvirate of wide receiver Javonte Smith, quarterback Quinn Jenkins, and running back Demingo Maupins (a junior). Smith is reportedly committed to the University of Tennessee after also receiving offers from Arkansas, Missouri, and West Virginia, and has amassed nearly 2,000 yards as a pass receiver at North Side.

"North Side has a lot of talent in the skill positions, just as we do," Ward said. "It's going to be a battle, no doubt about it."



Left: Titus Luten was cited by Coach Kevin Ward for his perseverance to improve and for making the most of his opportunity by working hard in practice. Luten caught two passes for 91 yards. (Photo by Ron Barry)

The Cavaliers' unit of skill players continues to grow with each game played. In the 28-20 loss to Dyer County, Kris Phillips -- who hadn't even lined up as a wide receiver in the first four contests -- suddenly caught six passes for 88 yards. And against Hardin County, it was Titus Luten who was added to the mix, taking the first play of the game 58 yards for a touchdown (on a long pass from Ben Burgess) and adding a 33-yard gainer later on another catch down to the one; Luten may have actually scored on that play as well as he stretched the ball inside the pylon and over the plane of the goal line as he was knocked out of bounds.

"Titus has been working hard all season and took advantage of his opportunity this week," Ward said. "I'm really happy he was able to score his first touchdown. He set the tone for the whole ballgame, and he also showed our other players that we mean it when we say you'll get rewarded for the way you practice and the work you put in."

09/19/2025

Luten, a junior, had not caught a pass all season before his touchdown, but his tally launched an attack that ran up 349 yards of total offense to just 156 for the Tigers. It jumpstarted another impressive night for quarterback Burgess, who connected on eight of his 12 throws for 139 yards and ran for a 28-yard touchdown on a keeper.

The Burgess score came after Hardin County shanked a punt at midfield – it went just two yards – and came with 4:53 remaining in the opening quarter. The Tigers tried to respond with a 40-yard drive, but it ended when Crockett linebacker Austin Carroll crashed through to sack Aidan Coleman for an eight-yard loss on a fourth-down pass attempt.

That led to a Cav march featuring running back DK Woods, who broke runs of 20 and 14 yards – sandwiching a facemask penalty against the visitors – before finally scoring on a 12-yard gallop to the left corner of the end zone. Noah Mayfield's extra point made it 21-0 with 6:33 remaining in the second period.

Crockett forced another punt and, on a third-and-30 situation following a Cav infraction, Burgess hit brother Karsen for 21 yards to the Hardin 48. Ward sent out the punt team on fourth-and-nine, but as punter Mayfield acted as if the snap had gone over his head, upback Amarion Hobson received the actual snap and raced all 48 yards for the touchdown on the fake. Only 1:36 was left on the clock before intermission, but the hosts led 28-0.

But that wasn't all for the first half. Carroll picked off a Coleman pass at the Crockett 35 to get the ball back. Burgess connected with brother Karsen again for seven yards, gained nine more on a keeper, and then took advantage of another 15-yard penalty against the Tigers to launch a long toss down the left sideline to Luten, who snared it and lunged for the goal line as he was knocked out of bounds. Officials ruled him out at the one, from where Woods ran over a couple of defenders for his second tally. Mayfield made it 35-0 with three ticks left on the clock.

That initiated a running clock for the second half, and another pass interception by Hobson began a drive of six straight carries by Demo Pickens (for 41 yards) before Burgess hit Squirt Pickens for eight to the Hardin 15. The Cavs eventually reached the three before two plays that lost yardage, and Ward used the occasion to allow Mayfield to try his first varsity field goal attempt. The junior kicker split the uprights from 24 yards for a 38-0 Crockett advantage.

The Tigers scored a touchdown against a reserve defense in the last minute to avoid a shutout.

Woods, used sparingly to keep him fresh for the North Side encounter, still scored twice on nine carries for 59 yards. Luten caught passes for 91 while the Cav defense limited Hardin's Coleman to just three completions in 10 throws for 22 yards, along with the two interceptions. Until the final march against the reserves, Hardin's rushing attack was held to only 60 yards in 23 tries, largely due to the outstanding play of linebackers Randle Perry, Carroll, and Jake Knox.



Above: Wide receiver Karsen Burgess (2) almost made a tremendous catch of this long throw from his brother Ben, but Hardin County's Maddox Rubble (1) provided just enough distraction to cause the ball to fall to the ground. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Crockett was also playing without senior stalwart Dre Walker, who had to sit out after being ejected against Dyer County in the previous game. He will be back for the clash at North Side, set for this coming Friday night at 7 p.m.

Game Statistics: Crockett 38, Hardin Co 7

Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 37-349; HC 42-156.

First Downs: CC 12; HC 9.

Penalties-Yards: CC 3-25; HC 4-45.

Punts-Yards-Avg: CC 1-21-21.0; HC 3-75-25.0. **Fumbles-Lost:** CC 0-0; HC 1-0.

CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 9-59, Demo Pickens 10-56, Ben Burgess 3-50, Amarion Hobson 1-48, Kris Phillips 1-0, Squirt Pickens 1-(-3), Team 25-210. **HC Rushing:** Maddox Rubble 9-54, Kaden Grier 7-37, Aidan Coleman 14-35, Thomas Stokke 1-5, Ben White 1-3, Team 32-134.

CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 8-12-139-0. **HC Passing:** Coleman 3-10-22-2.

CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Titus Luten 2-91 (1 TD), Karsen Burgess 2-28, Squirt Pickens 3-13, Demo Pickens 1-7.

HC Receiving: Ayden Perez 1-10, White 1-7, Rubble 1-5.

CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Austin Carroll 1-0, Amarion Hobson 1-0. **HC Pass Interceptions:** None.

CC Fumble Recoveries: None. **HC Fumble Recoveries:** None.

CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): Demo Pickens 1-6. **HC Kickoff Returns:** Chris Rodriguez 2-33, Landon Browder 1-5, Stokke 1-4.

CC Punt Returns: Demo Pickens 1-17. **HC Punt Returns:** None.

CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): DK Woods 2-0-0-0-12, Noah Mayfield 0-0-1-5-8, Ben Burgess 1-0-0-0-6, Titus Luten 1-0-0-0-6, Amarion Hobson 1-0-0-0-6, Team 5-0-1-5-38. **HC Scoring:** 1-0-0-1-7.

The Linescore:

HC 0 0 0 7 - 7

CC 14 21 0 3 - 38

Crockett – Titus Luten 58 pass from Ben Burgess (Noah Mayfield kick)**Crockett** – Ben Burgess 28 run (Mayfield kick)**Crockett** – DK Woods 12 run (Mayfield kick)**Crockett** – Amarion Hobson 48 run (Mayfield kick)**Crockett** – Woods 1 run (Mayfield kick)**Crockett** – Mayfield 24 field goal**Hardin Co** – Kaden Grier 4 run (Javier Chavez kick)**Season Statistics (5 games; 4-1 record; 2-1 region):****Total Offense (Plays-Yards):** CC 173-1,494; OPP 213-692. **First Downs:** CC 54; OPP 39. **Penalties-Yards:** CC 19-135; OPP 28-259. **Punts-Yards-Avg:** CC 8-222-27.8; OPP 17-460-27.1 (1 blocked). **Fumbles-Lost:** CC 7-6; OPP 7-4.**CC Rushing (Carries-Yards):** DK Woods 50-403, Ben Burgess 23-150, Demo Pickens 23-144, Gabe Dupree 3-100, Khalan Thomas 6-75, Amarion Hobson 2-48, Squirt Pickens 8-44, Dre Walker 6-29, Davis Porter 2-18, Kris Phillips 3-17, Karsen Burgess 1-4, Chris Vance 2-1, Chris Mann 1-(-1), bad snap 2-(-31), Team 132-1,001. OPP Rushing: 132-307.**CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions):** Ben Burgess 32-47-536-0. OPP Passing: 42-81-385-10.**CC Receiving (Catches-Yards):** Squirt Pickens 8-165 (2 TD), Titus Luten 2-91 (1 TD), Kris Phillips 6-88, Dre Walker 3-87 (1 TD), Karsen Burgess 9-79, DK Woods 3-19, Demo Pickens 1-7. OPP Receiving: 42-385 (5 TD).**CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards):** Gabe Dupree 4-24, Ian Greenberg 2-17, Demo Pickens 1-36, Kris Phillips 1-5, Austin Carroll 1-1, Amarion Hobson 1-0, Team 10-83. OPP Pass Interceptions: None.**CC Fumble Recoveries:** Demo Pickens 1, Amarion Hobson 1, team recovery 2 (1 for safety). OPP Fumble Recoveries: 6.**CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards):** Demo Pickens 4-108 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 2-31, Amarion Hobson 1-17, Brody Parlow 1-5, Carson Bridger 1-1, Team 9-162 (1 TD). OPP Kickoff Returns: 21-482 (1 TD).**CC Punt Returns:** Demo Pickens 5-35, Squirt Pickens 1-4, Team 6-39. OPP Punt Returns: None.**CC Punt Blocks:** Kris Phillips 1.**CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points):** DK Woods 10-0-0-0-60, Ben Burgess 5-1-0-0-32, Squirt Pickens 3-0-0-0-18, Noah Mayfield 0-0-1-21-24, Dre Walker 2-1-0-0-14, Gabe Dupree 2-0-0-0-12, Titus Luten 1-0-0-0-6, Demo Pickens 1-0-0-0-6, Amarion Hobson 1-0-0-0-6, Khalan Thomas 1-0-0-0-6, team safety 2, Team 26-2-1-21-186 (includes 1 safety). OPP Scoring: 8-0-0-7-55.

Above: Amarion Hobson (4) and Austin Carroll (7), here dropping Hardin County's Maddox Rubble (1) for no gain, were involved in a bunch of big plays for Crockett. Both had their first pass interceptions of the year; Hobson ran 48 yards for a score on a fake punt; and Carroll made several tackles and a fourth-down sack that set up the Cavs' third touchdown. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Linebacker Randle Perry (50) also was a defensive standout, here sliding around a wall of blockers to stop Tiger quarterback Aidan Coleman for a loss. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Running back DK Woods (32) put two more touchdowns on the board -- he now has 10 this season -- as he heads for the end zone from 12 yards out. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: And as he usually does just for good measure, DK Woods runs over the last guy who has a chance to tackle him on his way to the goal line. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Crockett cheerleaders Kinzey Hutchison (left) and Auriana Taylor (right) obviously approve of what the Cavs are doing, but Mia Grace Simmons (middle) is waiting for something even more amazing to impress her. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Hardin County didn't find a lot of running room against the Cavalier defense. This Tiger back is being grabbed by Austin Carroll (7) just before a host of others -- Kris Phillips (16), Zerafin Guardian (76), Jake Knox (35), Nolen Turner (54), and Grant Smallwood (77) -- arrive to add a load of beef to the pile. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Without that escort, things were tougher for Demo Pickens (3), here trying to escape a jersey pull from a Hardin County defender. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Eclipsing both the third and fourth quarters, Demo Pickens (3) carried numerous times to eventually set up Crockett's final score. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: That final score came on junior Noah Mayfield's first varsity field goal, a 24-yarder (with holder Kris Phillips) that made it 38-0. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: The last tally of the opening half came when Titus Luten (38) caught this pass from Ben Burgess, turned to head for the end zone, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Randle Perry, shifted to a linebacker position in the absence of Dre Walker, turned in an outstanding defensive performance throughout the contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: ... and began to lunge for the end zone as he's hit by Hardin County defender Maddox Rubble. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Titus Luten (38) was ruled out of bounds at the one despite the fact that it appears he broke the plane of the goal line with the ball clearly inside the pylon. It was a 33-yard gain to set up a DK Woods touchdown run. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Amaron Hobson (4) ran 48 yards for a touchdown on a fake punt executed well by Noah Mayfield (25, right background). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Austin Carroll (7) went high into the air to nab his first pass interception of the season on this play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

09/19/2025



Above: In the third quarter, Amaron Hobson (4) got an interception of his own and celebrated with Demo Pickens (3), Randle Perry (50), Ian Greenberg (19), and Squirt Pickens (23). (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jake Knox (35) and Demo Pickens (3) combine to take down Hardin County's Maddix Rubble. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Chris Mann (28) makes a fourth-quarter tackle for the Cavaliers. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Noah Mayfield (25) had a very successful night, hitting all five of his extra points and his first varsity field goal attempt. (Photo by Ron Barry)