THREE CROCKETT GOLFERS QUALIFY FOR REGIONAL; SOCCER GIRLS EDGED BY SOUTH GIBSON



Above: Crockett junior Jack Shaver fires an iron shot straight at the pin on his way to a front-nine birdie that helped him post an outstanding round of 73 in the rain-drenched District 15-A Tournament at The Farms in Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)

The sport of golf is extremely hard to master, even for seasoned adults in perfect weather conditions.

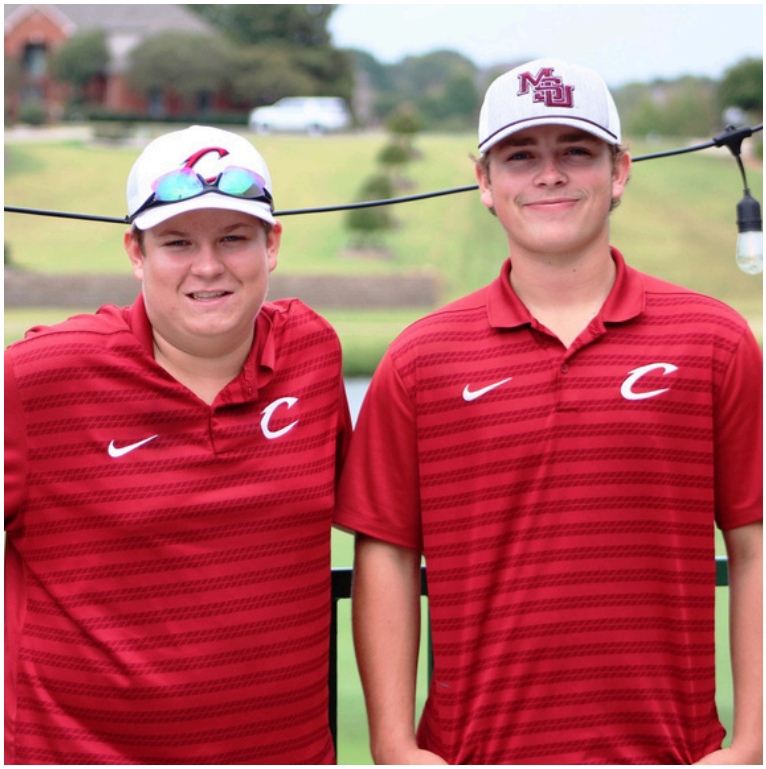
So imagine what would happen if you took a bunch of teenagers from different schools, put them on a tough course that is already soggy and muddy from weekend rains, and require them to play in a steady, annoying drizzle – interrupted by a lengthy lightning delay – and their score determines whether their season is over or they get to advance to the region tournament.

Such was the case Monday at The Farms in Dyersburg, where the District 15-A Tournament was conducted in miserable weather that contributed mightily to the skyrocketing scores. Still, when it was finally over after close to eight hours on the premises, three Crockett County golfers managed to qualify as individuals for next week's Region Tournament although the teams failed to place in the top three.

Cavalier linksters Jack Shaver and George Randall and Lady Cav Rachel Crossnoe earned berths in next week's event, albeit in entirely different ways.

Shaver, a junior who has been Crockett's top player since he started high school, fired a sparkling 73 and placed third overall, missing a berth in the district championship playoff by a single stroke. Randall, playing not far behind Shaver's group, carded a solid 78 that also easily placed him among the day's top scores.

But Crossnoe, a junior who has produced an outstanding regular season and consistently shoots in the 80s for 18 holes, had to sweat it out in the locker room as all the scores came in after she needed an uncharacteristic 102 shots to battle through the unfavorable conditions.



Above: Jack Shaver (left) and George Randall (right) battled through the elements to keep their scores in the 70s and earn berths in next week's Region Tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)

"It was bad," Crossnoe said, describing her round. "I mean, like – bad, bad!" Preparing for bad news when the other scores were reported, she gamely kept a smile on her face, hoping that the adverse conditions might affect some others as they had impacted her. Crossnoe described her experience as "feeling like I'm in a hospital waiting room."

But as the scores were finally reported, she saw that they were much higher than normal, and she would advance. In fact, a score of 122 by Covington's Hartley Howard ended up being good enough to make the girls' cut.

On the boys' side, it took an 80 by South Side's Luke Benson to claim the final individual spot. Both Shaver and Randall – who each shot 75 on this same course just last week in a large tournament – were safely in. And if Shaver – who played brilliantly throughout the annoying drizzle – hadn't three-putted the final green, he'd have joined Dyer County standouts Jarrett Harrison and Beau Thurman in a playoff for the district title.

Harrison claimed the crown with a birdie on the first playoff hole. The girls' championship was claimed by South Gibson's Marleigh Chicantek, who tamed the elements with a masterful 73.

Complete results were as follows:
Boys Team Scores:
Dyer County (303) – Jarrett Harrison 72, Beau Thurman 72, Seth LaRue 79, Jamison Rhodes 80.
Dyersburg (323) – John David Morris 76, Ryan Wesson 82, Brett Horner 82, Thaxton Coppage 83.
South Gibson (338) – Andrew Snuffin 75, Hall Cunningham 87, Mark Brafa 87, Brock Beasley 89.
Jackson South Side (345) – Wyatt Guthrey 78, Luke Benson 80, Caiden Lewis 93, Miller Hornsby 94.
Crockett County (346) – Jack Shaver 73, George Randall 78, Clay Kail 96, Max Woods 99.
Gibson County (349) – Colin Pack 74, Kade McDaniels 87, Brox Renfroe 90, Chandler Abbott 98.
Covington (384) – Andy Labermeier 89, Rhett Simpson 92, Bobby Billings 92, Nolan Hodges 111.
Madison Academic (395) – Jacob Ragan 85, Gage Dillon 99, Austin Willett 103, Trice Mullins 108.
Trenton Peabody (404) – Parker Greer 86, Brody Reuter 89, Preston Lee 111, Branson Ash 118.
Halls – Landon Pipken 96, Stephen Brewster 113. Ripley – Caden Thurmond 86. Jackson North Side – Riley Young 97.
Teams Advancing to Regional – Dyer County, Dyersburg, South Gibson.



Above: Lady Cav Rachel Crossnoe blasts her approach shot over the intimidating lake that guards the eighteenth green. While the conditions pushed Crossnoe's score higher than usual, she still qualified for the Region event. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Additional Individuals Advancing to Region – Shaver & Randall, Crockett County; Guthrey and Benson, South Side; Pack, Gibson County.
Individual Medalists – (1) Harrison, Dyer Co (won playoff on first extra hole); (2) Thurman, Dyer Co; (3) Shaver, Crockett County; (4) Pack, Gibson Co; (5) Snuffin, South Gibson.
Girls Team Scores:
South Gibson (164) – Marleigh Chicantek 73, Anna-Claire Hardin 91.
Dyer County (180) – Kennedy Hill 86, Lily Flagg 94.
Madison Academic (191) – Nora Manley 88, Margaret Manley 103.
Dyersburg (score unavailable) – Stella Madden, Cally Cook.
Crockett County (233) – Rachel Crossnoe 102, Alyssa Stricklin 131.
Ripley (244) – Taylor Burks 101, Mady Carter 143.
Halls (297) – Kylee Conrad 133, Ava Turner 164.
Trenton Peabody (393) – Emree Rachels 191, Gracie Langston 202.
Covington – Hartley Howard 122.
Teams Advancing to Regional – South Gibson, Dyer County.
Additional Individuals Advancing to Region – Madden & Cook, Dyersburg; Burks, Ripley; Crossnoe, Crockett County; Howard, Covington.

Right: After saying she felt like she was "in a hospital waiting room" as the other scores were slow to come in, Rachel Crossnoe's familiar smile returned quickly when she learned she had qualified for next week's Regional. (Photo by Ron Barry)



HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: Coach Carli Branson had some bad news and some good news Monday night as the Lady Cavs hosted highly-regarded South Gibson.

The bad news: the Lady Hornets pretty much dominated the entire game, possessing the ball for virtually the entire match and limiting the hosts to only a couple of legitimate shots.

The good news: Crockett's freshmen-laden club still only lost 2-1, getting a late goal from Caroline Scruggs on a sheer hustle play and having another potential breakaway just minutes later foiled when a South Gibson defender intentionally tripped Scruggs when she and teammate Kate Davis had engineered what was going to be an open shot situation. While the infraction was called, the Lady Cavs would have had a much better scoring opportunity if the play had continued.

Nevertheless, South Gibson's physicality was again the difference in this matchup. The Lady Hornets are well-drilled, pass well, communicate with each other, and – when push comes to shove – they don't mind pushing and shoving. They remain much more aggressive than the Lady Cavs have displayed, although Branson was glad to see the Crockett fire improve in the second half. And when Scruggs banged in her goal with 7:29 left on the game clock, a match that looked hopeless suddenly grew much more intense.

Before that surge, however, South Gibson was getting to virtually every loose ball first and stayed on the attack, forcing Lady Cav freshman goalkeeper Hannah Wede to make 11 saves. The only two shots that got past her came on blitzes down the middle when a Lady Hornet player simply outran the back line defense and found a seam.

Crockett, now 5-3-2 on the season, hits the road for its next three contests, beginning Tuesday evening at Ripley. The Lady Cavs then go to Dyer County and to Dyersburg for their final district matches.



Above: Rachel Crossnoe surveys the elements while walking between the umbrellas to reach her ball near the eighteenth green. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Jack Shaver's Monday round was pure gold, showing his power off the tee early on the front nine. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jack Shaver, who almost falls over to the right side when he swings his driver, launches a perfectly-placed tee shot on this hole to the middle of the fairway. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Shaver's putter saved him some strokes a few holes, as on this birdie at number five. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: You can see the mud fly from the fairway as Jack Shaver pops this approach shot just as the steady drizzle was beginning to fall. The course was already wet from weekend rains. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: So it's on to the Regional for Jack Shaver, who hopes he won't be having to look over his shoulder to see if there are scores coming in that are better than his. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: The goal by Caroline Scruggs (5) with 7:29 to play triggered this wild celebration by her teammates, including Emme Grace Martin (3), Alivia Hale (6), Emily Morales (behind Scruggs), Braniya Green (14), and Rebecca Waddey (7). (photo by Ron Barry)

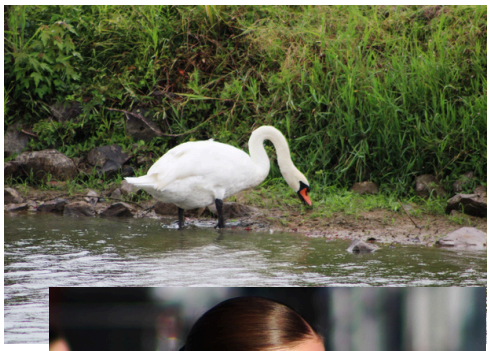
Right: Just minutes later, another rush toward the South Gibson net by Caroline Scruggs and Kate Davis (19) was halted by this trip on Scruggs by Lady Hornet Madison Czerniak. While a penalty was called, it took away what would have been an open shot by Davis. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Rachel Crossnoe nervously watches the scores finally being posted after an interminable wait Monday. She was in the first girls group to finish, over an hour ahead of all the others. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: One of the few visitors at Monday's round who actually enjoyed the atmosphere was this swan, found nibbling on something on a lake bank while being completely oblivious to the players. (Photo by Ron Barry)







Above: Ruth Gourley, one of six freshmen starters for Crockett, continues to develop into one of the Lady Cavaliers' most dependable players. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Crockett held SGC to just two goals despite the first-half loss of key defender Kyleigh Kelley to a leg injury. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Avery Thornton reverses this ball's direction to get it back upfield where Rebecca Waddey (7) and Amy Mena (15) await. (Photo by Ron Barry)