

LADY CAV VOLLEYBALLERS HIT THE POWER BUTTON; POUND DYERSBURG IN STRAIGHT SETS



Above: When the front-row mashers need a solid set to get the ball high into the right spot, it is most likely Lakyn Forsythe doing the heavy lifting. (Photo by Ron Barry)

It may have been storming outside Tuesday night in Alamo, but all of the thunder was inside Bill Emerson Memorial Gymnasium.

Crockett County's volleyball team – featuring its rotating front-row monster mashers – powered its way to an easy 25-10, 25-18, 25-14 straight-set win over visiting Dyersburg with a relentless display of kill shots that the overmatched Lady Trojans could not handle.

Katherine West – playing perhaps her finest match of the season – joined teammates Keeton Holyfield, Deonna Cole, Madi Collins, and Wesley Thornton in unleashing a flurry of slams, most of them prepared by excellent sets from Lakyn Forsythe. Audrey Whitby, Addie Davidson, Darcy Puffer, Carmen Claybrooks, and Ellie Henderson supplied solid returns of Dyersburg's serves from their back-row positions, along with the mashers who also rotated to the second line.

Coach Andrew Laman's club, now 17-6, broke out to a quick, sizeable lead in Set 1 and never looked back, losing focus for only brief Lady Trojan runs in the second and third sets – but never for very long. It was a strong bounce-back performance from a surprising four-set defeat at Milan in the Lady Cavaliers' previous match last week.

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Crockett will host Covington, the team it beat in last season's West Sectional to clinch a State Tournament berth, on Thursday evening. The varsity contest will follow a JV matchup that begins at 5 p.m.



Above: On a night when she and her fellow mashers pounded the daylights out of Dyersburg, Crockett's Katherine West (3) goes high to guide a soft touch shot into an open zone on the Lady Trojan side of the court. (Photo by Ron Barry)

GIRLS SOCCER: Crockett's soccer match originally scheduled for Tuesday evening with Ripley was canceled after the Lady Tigers suspended their season due to a lack of available players. Coach Carli Branson's crew, currently 5-3-2 for the year, will travel to Newbern for a 6 p.m. district encounter with Dyer County.



Above: Coach Andrew Laman has been rotating some of his front-liners into the back row more and more in recent matches. Wesley Thornton (20) shows that she can return serve as well as mash kills. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Close friends and fellow mashers Keeton Holyfield (right) and Deonna Cole both had plenty of opportunities to "power up" against the Lady Trojans Tuesday evening. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Audrey Whitby, one of Crockett's back-row mainstays, got the hosts off on the right foot with a nice run of effective serves. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Madi Collins, who can mash with the best of the Lady Cavs and has developed the most "booming" serve on the team, can also use some touch when she senses the opponent has a block ready. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Birthday girl Ellie Henderson showed her athleticism on this play, somehow keeping this ball in play with a leaping redirection. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Addie Davidson (left) and Lakyn Forsythe soak up some coaching information on the sideline during a Dyersburg-called timeout. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Carmen Claybrooks digs a ball back up into the air for either Madi Collins (foreground) or Deonna Cole (background) to attack. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: As always in a Crockett match that's going well, it's fun to see the players expressions. Here's Darcy Puffer, having a chuckle in conversation with Audrey Whitby (10). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Tuesday night's match wasn't exactly a nail-biter, but maybe Wesley Thornton was practicing for a later match that will be. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Deonna Cole looks like she's been eavesdropping on an interesting dialogue between teammates. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Tuesday was Ellie Henderson's birthday. Here she is trying to tell someone over on the bench how old she isn't. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Katherine West checks the scoreboard, reminding herself that Crockett coaches don't like the players to lose focus when things are flowing well. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: When you see Katherine West and Wesley Thornton laughing like this, it's a good bet that Deonna Cole is probably just out of the picture's framing. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Keeton Holyfield, who usually manages to keep her serious "game face" on longer than the others, even found time to smile against the Lady Trojans. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Here, Wesley Thornton has a story going that definitely has the interest of Lakyn Forsythe (left) and Katherine West. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Madi Collins can generally maintain a solemn demeanor on a par with Keeton Holyfield. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Someone is almost always ribbing Wesley Thornton about something, whether it's from an on-court player who draws her side-eye ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... or someone from the bench. Here, Wesley Thornton pretty much seems to be saying, "Don't make me come over there!" (Photo by Ron Barry)

