SOCCER TEAM SEEING CONFIDENCE BUILD AS DISTRICT TOURNAMENT APPROACHES



Above: Rebecca Waddey -- using her "off" foot (the left) -- drills a perfectly-placed corner kick directly in front of the Dyersburg net, ... (Photo by Robin Waddey)

In the early portion of the schedule, when soccer coach Carli Branson was putting as many as six freshmen in her starting lineup, it seemed clear that this was going to be something of a rebuilding year.

Now, heading into the final regular season match Thursday at home against Lexington, that's not necessarily the viewpoint.

Monday night's narrow 2-1 loss at top-seeded Dyersburg – coupled with another 2-1 defeat against second-place South Gibson earlier this month – has convinced Branson that her young squad is capable of playing with anybody in the district. Now the task is to convince her players.

"I've been telling the girls all season that on any given day a team is beatable," Branson said. "Tonight (Monday) was going to come down to the fundamentals and winning 50/50s, getting a solid first touch, playing to feet. We didn't play our best fundamental soccer, but we did amp up the physicality and create some opportunities."

The chance to see their growth will come at Dyersburg on October 7 when Crockett faces a rematch with South Gibson, a team that also has a one-goal loss (4-3) to the Lady Trojans.

Against Dyersburg Monday, Branson's club actually took a 1-0 lead when Rebecca Waddey – using her left foot – directed a perfect corner kick in front of the net, from where surging Alivia Hale knocked it in. From that point on, the Lady Trojans maintained possession for the majority of the game and managed two goals by Hattie Manneh after Crockett freshman goalkeeper Hannah Wede had made 10 exceptional saves.

"This game wasn't about who wanted it more," Branson said, "because both teams wanted it. We played exceptionally hard, and had to make frequent substitutions to try and keep fresh feet on the field. But I hope now our team sees that it can compete with these district leaders."

The Lady Cavaliers' match with Lexington is scheduled for the grass field at CCHS at 5:30 p.m.

GOLF: Crockett's Rachel Crossnoe forced a sudden-death playoff for the final berth in the upcoming State Tournament in Monday's Region competition, but came up a stroke short of winning the spot.

It capped a disappointing day for Cavalier linksters as neither Jack Shaver nor George Randall – Crockett's two entries on the boys side of the event – were able to snare State berths, shooting an 80 and 83, respectively. The Region Tournament ended the golf season for the Cavalier squads.



above: ... from where Alivia Hale (6) knocked it into the net to give the Lady Cavaliers a 1-0 lead over the Lady Trojans Monday. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: Alivia Hale prepares to celebrate her go-ahead goal with Emily Morales (9) as the arms of teammate Caroline Scruggs (5) go high into the air in jubilation. (Photo by Robin Waddey)





Above: ... sending the Lady Trojan shooter flying over her as the ball deflects wide of the goal. Chloe Campbell (24) and Emme Grace Martin (3) are racing in from the left for Crockett. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Above: The Lady Cav defense had another stellar day, despite Dyersburg's overwhelming possession time. Defender Claire Nichols (25) clears a ball out of the zone on this play. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Above: Crockett goalkeeper Hannah Wede sacrifices her body to slide down in front of a charging Dyersburg attacker to try to ward off a shot, ... (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: Avery Thornton (13) works the ball upfield for the Lady Cavs against a Dyersburg defender. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Below: Ruth Gourley cuts off a Dyersburg pass and tries to steer it over to Rebecca Waddey (right) to begin a Crockett attack. The Lady Cavs are 6-4-2 heading into their regular season finale. (Photo by Robin Waddey)





Above: It's Davis vs. Goliath as Crockett's Kate Davis (19) finds herself confronted by a much taller Dyersburg defender on this play. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Right: Lady Cav defenders Kamiliah Juarez (16) and Anahy De La Rosa (2) blanket a Dyersburg midfielder to keep her from getting the ball. (Photo by Robin Waddey)





Above: Braniya Green (14) battles a Lady Trojan defender for control of this airborne ball. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: Rachel Crossnoe fell one shot shy of gaining a State Tournament berth, falling in a playoff for the third and final individual spot at the Region Tournament in Dyersburg on Monday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

