

SOCCKER, VOLLEYBALL TEAMS CLOSE REGULAR SEASONS WITH WINS OVER LEXINGTON



Above: Rebecca Waddey, hounded closely by a couple of Lexington defenders throughout the match, still posted a hat trick of assists to her teammates as Crockett rolled 6-1. (Photo by Ron Barry)

SOCCKER: “We’re trying some new things,” said Lady Cav coach Carli Branson at the beginning of Thursday’s game, with a few players in different positions and – eventually – a different starting lineup for the second half. The result was basically the same as Crockett won the opening period 3-0 and the second stanza 3-1 as five players scored goals and four registered assists.

After Thornton’s tally broke the ice, fellow cross-country teammate Alivia Hale banged in the second goal from short range before Cesia Sanchez – off a splendid running assist pass from Ruth Gourley – made it 3-0 with a point-blank boot past a sliding goalkeeper.

In the second half, after Lexington got on the board to cut the deficit to 3-1, freshman Gourley nailed a pair of goals, one on an attack from the right side in which she looped a shot high into the top corner of the net while on a dead run. Her reaction indicated that she had surprised even herself that it went in.

As darkness was beginning to set in, Kate Davis closed the scoring by poking in a rebound of a Rebecca Waddey shot, giving Waddey her third assist of the duel. Gourley, Braniya Green, and Kamillah Juarez had the others.

“Multiple players who have been waiting patiently were able to showcase their talents tonight,” Branson said, “and our fans were able to see the improvement from the beginning of the season to the end.” The Lady Cavs, a tremendously young team with a predominance of freshmen and sophomores, will now take a respectable 7-4-2 regular-season record into the district tournament, set to take place next week in Dyersburg.

VOLLEYBALL: Also closing out their regular season slate, Coach Andrew Laman’s spikers polished off Lexington 25-22, 25-17, and 25-19 to finish at 25-7 for the 2025 campaign. Crockett will be the second seed in the upcoming district tournament and once again was the lone district squad to even capture a set against top-seeded Dyer County.

For about the first 10 minutes of Thursday’s soccer match between Crockett County and Lexington, it seemed like both teams took turns doing nothing but going up and down the sidelines knocking throw-ins right back out of bounds.

It was not a Chamber of Commerce moment for growing the game of soccer.

But once Avery Thornton drilled in a beautiful running shot from the right side – at a nearly impossible angle – for the contest’s first goal, the Lady Cavalier floodgates were suddenly open as the hosts cruised to a 6-1 victory.

Meanwhile, over in Lexington, Crockett’s volleyballers racked up their 25th triumph of the season with a three-set sweep of the Lady Tigers, making it a good night all around to be wearing maroon instead of red.



Above: This is the assist pass Ruth Gourley crossed while on the dead run from near the right sideline ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... to teammate Cesia Sanchez (21), who powered it past the Lexington goalkeeper to give Crockett a 3-0 first-half lead. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: In the second half it was Ruth Gourley's time to shine, and the freshman belted the ball into the top right corner on this amazing shot, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Another angle of the Cesia Sanchez shot shows how perfectly the play worked all the way around. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Right: Before the game, Coach Carli Branson takes her two daughters over to play with former Lady Cavaliers Carley Lampley and Stephanie Joyner. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Avery Thornton used her speed to elude a Lexington defender and knock in the game's first goal on a run from the right side. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Alivia Hale got free in the middle and kicked in this shot for the Lady Cavaliers' second tally of the match. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: ... perhaps surprising even herself that it went in from that angle, judging from her reaction as she contemplates what she just did. (Photo by Robin Waddey)





Above: Ruth Gourley's other goal wasn't nearly as difficult, punching this shot in from relatively short range. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Left: And then Kate Davis (19) got into the act ... (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: ...as darkness began to settle in over the pitch. Davis punched in a rebound of a deflected shot and began to jump up and down as Avery Thornton was the first to reach her with congratulations. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: It was a popular goal as Kate Davis (19) was celebrated by Braniya Green (14), Avery Thornton (13), and Kamillah Juarez (16). (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Below: Chloe Campbell's speed was once again a positive factor in Crockett's defensive effort, as she broke up numerous Lexington attacks by intercepting the ball. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Below: Coach Carli Branson used a multitude of players in the match. Here, Evelyn Calderon (22) attempts to get away from a Lady Tiger defender. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Above: Kendra Juarez is another member of the defensive back wall that has rarely allowed opposing scorers to slip past it. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Left: Charlee Lewis clears a ball out of the defensive end as goalie Hannah Wede -- who didn't see a whole lot of activity near the net -- looks on in the far background. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Right: Assistant coach Joey Soriano appears smitten with Mike and Robin Waddey's grandson Boone, getting a halftime snuggle. (Photo by Ron Barry)

