

CAVS CRUSH CHESTER COUNTY; SOUTH SIDE GAME THURSDAY DECIDES PLAYOFF PICTURE



Above: DK Woods (32) goes airborne to break a tackle as he cuts behind blocks by Sebastian Garduno (63) and Garner Brown (67) on his way to a big gain against Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Homecoming opponents are generally homecoming opponents for a reason. Let's just say Chester County fulfilled its role beautifully.

Crockett's footballers clobbered the reeling Eagles 41-7 by rolling up 419 yards on just 41 offensive plays and holding the visitors to 115 yards on 40 snaps. Chester County came into the contest already hampered by injuries to several starters and lost its top running back late in the second quarter of this game.

Consequently, this one can be summarized pretty quickly: DK Woods ran wild, scoring four touchdowns while running 16 times for 196 yards; Crockett only threw three passes and never had to punt; and the Cavalier reserves added a score to the cause on a 48-yard run by Khalan Thomas.

"We caught them at a down time," was the charitable way that Cav coach Kevin Ward analyzed his club's seventh win in nine starts. "We did play well, though. It was good for our players to get back into feeling some semblance of success after the loss to South Gibson. We need to eliminate the dumb penalties, but overall this was a good win for us. It puts us in a good position to maybe earn a home game in the first round of the playoffs."

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That scenario is what is at stake when Crockett hosts South Side next Thursday night in the regular-season finale. Getting the Region 7-4A top seed now appears out of reach after South Gibson outlasted North Side 49-31 Friday and has only winless Hardin County on their schedule.

The number of teams tied for second dropped from five to three Friday with North Side's loss and Dyer County's 63-14 demolition of South Side. The Cavs remain tied in region play with Dyer County and Lexington, but those two play each other in Newbern Thursday. If Lexington wins, Crockett holds the tiebreaker against the Tigers. If Dyer County wins, the Choctaws hold the tiebreaker over the Cavs.

The most important bottom line is this: If Crockett beats the Hawks, it's definitely in the playoffs. If South Side beats the Cavs, the possibility gets very murky, because the likelihood then is that four teams could have three region defeats, and only two of them will get in.

Crockett had absolutely no trouble with Chester County. Woods ran his season total of touchdowns up to 22 with his four-spot against the Eagles and also topped the 1,000-yard rushing mark for the season. The junior standout scored on runs of 8, 5, 10, and 12 yards in the contest, but also broke sprints of 29, 19 (twice), 15, 13, and 42 yards during the game.

Ben Burgess added a touchdown on a one-yard quarterback sneak and Thomas followed a 27-yard keeper by Kris Phillips with his long scoring run early in the fourth quarter as Ward substituted liberally.

So it all boils down to the season finale for the Cavaliers. On the night before Halloween, they just need to be downright spooky to their visitors from Jackson.



Above: Austin Carroll (7) and Amarion Hobson (4) put the stop to this Eagle run as Carson Bridger (79) arrives to put the finishing touch on it. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Game Statistics: Crockett 41, Chester Co 7**Total Offense (Plays-Yards):** CR 41-419; CH 40-115.**First Downs:** CR 12; CH 7.**Penalties-Yards:** CR 7-70; CH 3-35.**Punts-Yards-Avg:** CR 0; CH 3-127-42.3.**Fumbles-Lost:** CR 0-0; CH 2-0.**CR Rushing (Carries-Yards):** DK Woods 16-196, Khalan Thomas 6-61, Dre Walker 2-45, Kris Phillips 3-39, Amaron Hobson 5-31, Ben Burgess 5-17, Squirt Pickens 1-(-2), Team 38-387. **CH Rushing:** Braylin Robinson 9-44, Jaden Weaver 12-34, Heath Stewart 5-10, Ethan Talley 1-3, Jayden Williams 2-(-5), Grayson Stewart 3-(-6), Team 32-80.**CR Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions):** Ben Burgess 2-3-32-0. **CH Passing:** Grayson Stewart 3-8-35-1.**CR Receiving (Catches-Yards):** Squirt Pickens 1-23, Dre Walker 1-9. **CH Receiving:** Williams 1-18, Jordan Hunt 2-17.**CR Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards):** Jake Knox 1-0. **CH Pass Interceptions:** None.**CR Fumble Recoveries:** 0. **CH Fumble Recoveries:** 0.**CR Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards):** None. **CH Kickoff Returns:** Hunt 2-38, Cannon White 2-33, Williams 2-23, Robinson 1-10, Team 7-104.**CR Punt Returns:** Squirt Pickens 1-34, Demo Pickens 1-8, Team 2-42. **CH Punt Returns:** None.**CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points):** DK Woods 4-0-0-0-24, Ben Burgess 1-0-0-0-6, Khalan Thomas 1-0-0-0-6, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-5-5, Team 6-0-0-5-41. **CH Scoring:** 1-0-0-1-7.**The Linescore:****Chester Co 0 0 0 7 - 7****Crockett Co 14 13 7 7 - 41****Crockett** – DK Woods 8 run (Noah Mayfield kick)**Crockett** – Woods 5 run (Mayfield kick)**Crockett** – Ben Burgess 1 run (Mayfield kick)**Crockett** – Woods 10 run (kick failed)**Crockett** – Woods 12 run (Mayfield kick)**Chester** – Jaden Weaver 13 run (Linkin Phillips kick)**Crockett** – Khalan Thomas 48 run (Mayfield kick)**Season Statistics (9 games; 7-2 record; 4-2 region):****Total Offense (Plays-Yards):** CC 358-2,987; OPP 399-1,755.**First Downs:** CC 103; OPP 83.**Penalties-Yards:** CC 44-359; OPP 54-479.**Punts-Yards-Avg:** CC 12-344-28.7; OPP 28-850-30.4 (1 blocked).**Fumbles-Lost:** CC 13-9; OPP 13-6.**CC Rushing (Carries-Yards):** DK Woods 116-1,018, Ben Burgess 58-254, Demo Pickens 28-183, Khalan Thomas 12-136, Amaron Hobson 11-123, Gabe Dupree 3-100, Dre Walker 11-88, Squirt Pickens 11-76, Kris Phillips 6-56, Davis Porter 2-18, Karsen Burgess 2-7, Chris Vance 2-1, Chris Mann 1-(-1), bad snap 2-(-31), Team 265-2,028. **OPP Rushing:** 281-1,049.**CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions):** Ben Burgess 60-99-1,002-3. **OPP Passing:** 61-118-706-11.**CC Receiving (Catches-Yards):** Squirt Pickens 15-249 (2 TD), Karsen Burgess 16-228, Dre Walker 14-224 (2 TD), Kris Phillips 7-119, Titus Luten 3-114 (2 TD), DK Woods 4-61 (1 TD), Demo Pickens 1-7. **OPP Receiving:** 61-706 (8 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, Amaron Hobson 1-0, Jake Knox 1-0, Team 11-83. **OPP Pass Interceptions:** 3-0.**CC Fumble Recoveries:** Gabe Dupree 1, Demo Pickens 1, Amaron Hobson 1, Garner Brown 1, team recovery 2 (1 for safety). **OPP Fumble Recoveries:** 9.**CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards):** Demo Pickens 5-116 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 2-31, Dre Walker 1-25, Amaron Hobson 1-17, Mason Dennis 1-9, DK Woods 1-7, Brody Parlow 1-5, Carson Bridger 1-1, Team 13-211 (1 TD). **OPP Kickoff Returns:** 40-843 (1 TD).**CC Punt Returns:** Demo Pickens 6-43, Squirt Pickens 2-38, Team 8-81. **OPP Punt Returns:** None.**CC Punt Blocks:** Kris Phillips 1.**CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points):** DK Woods 22-0-0-0-132, Ben Burgess 7-1-0-0-44, Noah Mayfield 0-0-1-36-39, Dre Walker 3-2-0-0-22, Squirt Pickens 3-0-0-0-18, Demo Pickens 2-0-0-0-12, Gabe Dupree 2-0-0-0-12, Titus Luten 2-0-0-0-12, Khalan Thomas 2-0-0-0-12, Amaron Hobson 1-0-0-0-6, team safety 2, Team 44-3-1-36-311 (includes 1 safety). **OPP Scoring:** 20-0-1-17-140.

Above: Sophia McGowan cheers on the Cavaliers as they make their entrance behind her onto the field. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Squirt Pickens (23) watches this Ben Burgess (10) pass all the way into his hands ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: ... and then turns it upfield for a 23-yard gain. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Linebacker Jake Knox (35) dove in front of a Chester County receiver to record his first interception of the season and is congratulated here by Nolen Turner (54) and Sebastian Garduno (63). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: DK Woods (32) thundered for 196 yards and four touchdowns on just 16 carries in the homecoming contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)

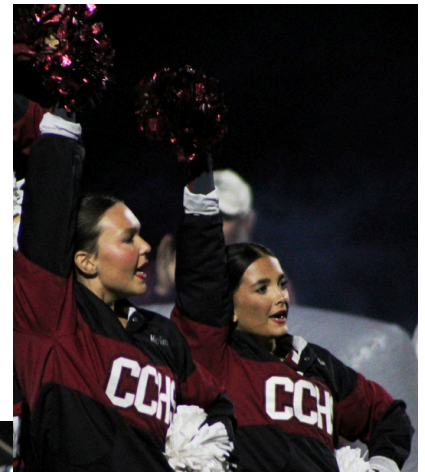


Left: Crockett's homecoming court (from left): Nataly Amador, Anahy De La Rosa, Kinzey Hutchison, queen Emma Mentink, Ava North-Hall, and Alyssa Stricklin. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Randle Perry (50) and Amarion Hobson (4) take down the Eagles' Heath Stewart as Dre Walker (6) tries to elude a blocker. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Mia Simmons (left) and Lexie Beard had plenty to cheer about on this chilly evening during the 41-7 Crockett romp. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Brody Parlow (5) and Chris Mann (28) pulled down Chester County's Braylin Robinson on this kickoff return. (Photo by Ron Barry)



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Above: Carson Bridger (79) takes out an Eagle defender who tried to leap the line as Ben Burgess (10) scores on a quarterback sneak from the one. Titus Luten (38), Garner Brown (67), and Sebastian Garduno (63) also supply line blocks, while Squirt Pickens (23) and Karsen Burgess (2) help push from behind to cross the goal line. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Randle Perry (50), Jake Knox (35), and Austin Carroll (7) team up to make the tackle for no gain on this play. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: DK Woods dances out of this attempted arm tackle by Chester County to head in for the first of his four touchdowns. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's Colin Smith (53) makes the tackle on the Eagles' Braylin Robinson in fourth-quarter action. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: DK Woods scored his third touchdown of the game on this 10-yard gallop through a gaping hole created by his offensive line. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Karsen Burgess (2) provides the final block as DK Woods -- leaving a trail of frustrated tacklers behind him -- scores his fourth touchdown of the night, bringing his season total to 22. (Photo by Ron Barry)

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Above: Dre Walker (6) carried the ball twice for 45 yards, cutting behind a block here by Brooks Harris (73) and another upcoming one from Carson Bridger (79). (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Kris Phillips (16) and Brody Parlow (5) pounced on Eagle punter Linkin Phillips to induce this fourth-down fumble after a poor snap from center. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kris Phillips (16) later cut behind this block by Brody Jones (11) to dash 27 yards to midfield, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: ... setting up this 48-yard touchdown sprint by Khalan Thomas. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Gabe Dupree (29), Squirt Pickens (23), and Jake Knox (35) put the hit on this Chester County ball carrier. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: The night belonged to DK Woods (32), who literally dragged these Chester County tacklers nine yards before he was stopped at the one. Ben Burgess tallied on the next play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

