

## CROCKETT OFFENSE BLASTS SOUTH SIDE; PLAYOFF RUN BEGINS AT MEMPHIS KIRBY



**Above:** Ben Burgess (10) -- ably protected here by Nolen Turner (54) -- fires a 43-yard bomb to Kris Phillips, kicking off his 6-for-6 night, good for 208 yards. (Photo by Ron Barry)

On the night before Halloween, Crockett County did the Monster Mash on Jackson South Side.

The 41-6 non-Thriller sends the Cavaliers into the TSSAA 4-A playoffs, which for Crockett will begin next Friday night at Memphis Kirby. Coach Kevin Ward's club goes in as the #3 seed from Region 7, while Kirby gains the host role as the #2 seed from Region 8.

Region 7's topsy-turvy season ironed itself out Thursday night when South Gibson County toppled Hardin County 41-14 to earn the top seed at 6-1, and Dyer County defeated Lexington 17-9 to get the #2 seed. Although Crockett's 5-2 record in region play equaled that of the Choctaws, Dyer County won the head-to-head battle with the Cavs.

In Region 8's final week, Haywood claimed the top position by pounding Kirby 44-7, and will host Lexington next week. Kirby will entertain Crockett, while South Gibson hosts Millington and Lakeland Prep travels to Dyer County.

The Cavs will enter the post-season on a high note after easily handling South Side, which ironically was the only Region 7 team to defeat South Gibson, rallying for 17 fourth-quarter points to do so. The Hawks had no such luck against Crockett: despite running 30 more plays from scrimmage, South Side gained 133 less yards than the 458 accumulated by the Cavs.

Early on, however, the game was far from a rout. The game was tied 6-6 with 9:07 remaining in the second quarter, and on Crockett's next possession, standout runner DK Woods lost a fumble near midfield. South Side moved it down to the Cav 25, but Crockett's Gabe Dupree tossed Hawk receiver Greg Green for a three-yard loss after a pass reception to force a fourth down, and another Gavin Stewart toss fell incomplete.

Woods fumbled again on his next carry, although Crockett maintained possession this time, and the game turned when quarterback Ben Burgess threw his only pass of the first half -- a 43-yard strike to Kris Phillips, streaking down the left sideline. It took the ball down to the South Side six, and Woods scored from three yards out.

"It's very uncharacteristic of DK to fumble the ball," Ward said after the game. "We talked about it after the second one. We told him to do the things he normally does and get back out there and show them why he's one of the best running backs in West Tennessee."

When the night was over, the junior dynamo had carried 22 times for 231 yards and five touchdowns. Woods received Ward's message, and then sent it on to the Hawks.

Still, Crockett's edge was only 13-6 at halftime. Neither team had punted in the first two quarters, but the Cavalier defense forced three Hawk punts in the third, and each time Ward's crew responded with a touchdown march.

Crockett took over at midfield after the first South Side boot, and Burgess took to the air twice to his older brother Karsen for completions of 30 and 15 yards. Woods crashed it in from the five with 10:02 on the clock, and Noah Mayfield's extra point made it 20-6.

Following the next Hawk punt, Crockett roared 77 yards, keyed by runs of 10 and 19 yards by Woods and a 39-yard pass completion from Burgess-to-Burgess. Woods tallied from five yards out again, and Mayfield's extra made it 27-6.

After forcing yet another South Side punt, the Cavs hit on their longest pass play of the Burgess era when Phillips again got loose behind the Hawk secondary -- this time down the right sideline -- and Burgess hit him in stride for what would become an 81-yard touchdown. Mayfield again converted the extra point, and Crockett led 34-6 with 1:48 still remaining in the third period.

South Side drove it to the Cavalier 16 before pass-rushing Carson Bridger came up with his second deflection of the game, leading to the Hawks turning it over on downs. Crockett again responded immediately when Woods broke free on a 67-yard romp to the visitors' 17. He scored his fifth touchdown of the evening from the six shortly thereafter, and it was 41-6 with 8:10 to go.

While Crockett substituted liberally after that, the defense played hard until the final horn, showing their determination by keeping South Side out of the end zone on its final two plays. The first was a pass play toward the right side of the goal line, but Crockett's Jeremiah Young and Brody Parlow knocked the straining receiver out of bounds at the one. The line then snuffed a run up the middle on the last play.

Quarterback Burgess finished the night six-for-six on pass plays for 208 yards to support the run production of Woods. Crockett also received a pass interception from linebacker Dre Walker that stopped South Side's opening drive, and Dupree foiled a two-point conversion pass by the Hawks by picking off a desperation throw after a bobbled snap.

Now, the playoffs begin, and while Dyer County's defeat of Lexington prevented Crockett from getting the home game the Cavs wanted, Ward is still happy Crockett is in the field.

"There are some good football teams whose season ended tonight," he said, "so I'm glad we're not one of them. Now everything starts all over. Everybody has the same record. All you have to do is win the next game by one point, and you move on to the next one. We want to play five more games. Our team prepared well for this one, and if we do it again, we should be all right. We'd love to be at home, but that's on us – we didn't win two games we could have won. But that's in the past, and now we look forward week by week."



**Above:** Karsen Burgess caught three throws for 84 yards and set up Crockett's third touchdown with two lengthy gains. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Game Statistics: Crockett 41, Jackson South Side 6**  
**Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 36-458; SS 66-325.**

**First Downs: CC 14; SS 19.**

**Penalties-Yards: CC 3-25; SS 4-35.**

**Punts-Yards-Avg: CC 0; SS 3-109-36.3.**

**Fumbles-Lost: CC 2-1; SS 0-0.**

**CC Rushing (Carries-Yards):** DK Woods 22-231, Squirt Pickens 1-12, Ben Burgess 5-7, Dre Walker 1-1, Amari Hobson 1-(-1), Team 30-250. **SS Rushing:** Kaden Currie 21-82, Greg Green 3-25, Simeon Graham 1-18, Gavin Stewart 1-11, Jamarrion Grimes 3-4, Rodrick Ross 1-(-1), Team 30-139.

**CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions):** Ben Burgess 6-6-208-0. **SS Passing:** Stewart 20-36-186-1.

**CC Receiving (Catches-Yards):** Kris Phillips 3-124 (1 TD), Karsen Burgess 3-84. **SS Receiving:** Braydon Weldon 6-82 (1 TD), Graham 7-60, Ross 3-24, Green 2-9, Grimes 1-7, Currie 1-4.

**CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards):** Dre Walker 1-13. **SS Pass Interceptions:** None.

**CC Fumble Recoveries:** 0. **SS Fumble Recoveries:** 1.

**CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards):** Squirt Pickens 1-15, Demo Pickens 1-14, Team 2-29. **SS Kickoff Returns:** Grimes 5-109.

**CC Punt Returns:** Demo Pickens 1-3. **SS Punt Returns:** None.

**CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points):** DK Woods 5-0-0-0-30, Kris Phillips 1-0-0-0-6, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-5-5, Team 6-0-0-5-41. **SS Scoring:** 1-0-0-0-6.

#### The Linescore:

**South Side** 0 6 0 0 - 6

**Crockett Co** 6 7 21 7 - 41

**Crockett** – DK Woods 31 run (kick failed)

**SS** – Braydon Weldon 12 pass from Gavin Stewart (pass failed)

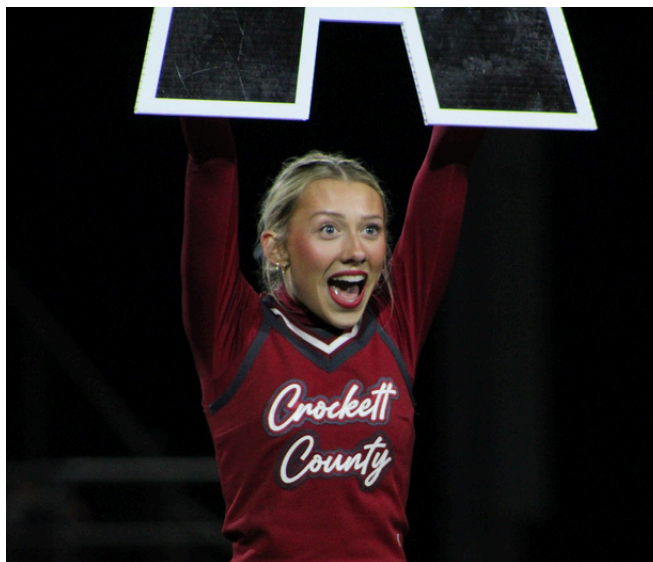
**Crockett** – Woods 3 run (Noah Mayfield kick)

**Crockett** – Woods 5 run (Mayfield kick)

**Crockett** – Woods 5 run (kick failed)

**Crockett** – Kris Phillips 81 pass from Ben Burgess (Mayfield kick)

**Crockett** – Woods 6 run (Mayfield kick)



**Above:** Makayla Murphy and her cheer teammates performed their competition routine at halftime for the pre-Halloween crowd. (Photo by Ron Barry)

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**Season Statistics (10 games; 8-2 record; 5-2 region):**

**Total Offense (Plays-Yards):** CC 394-3,445; OPP 465-2,080. **First Downs:** CC 117; OPP 102.

**Penalties-Yards:** CC 47-384; OPP 58-514.

**Punts-Yards-Avg:** CC 12-344-28.7; OPP 31-959-30.9 (1 blocked).

**Fumbles-Lost:** CC 15-10; OPP 13-6.

**CC Rushing (Carries-Yards):** DK Woods 138-1,249, Ben Burgess 63-261, Demo Pickens 28-183, Khalan Thomas 12-136, Amaron Hobson 12-122, Gabe Dupree 3-100, Dre Walker 12-89, Squirt Pickens 12-88, 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 295-2,278. **OPP Rushing:** 311-1,188.

**CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions):** Ben Burgess 66-105-1,210-3. **OPP Passing:** 81-154-892-12.

**CC Receiving (Catches-Yards):** Karsen Burgess 19-312, Squirt Pickens 15-249 (2 TD), Kris Phillips 10-243 (1 TD), Dre Walker 14-224 (2 TD), Titus Luten 3-114 (2 TD), DK Woods 4-61 (1 TD), Demo Pickens 1-7. **OPP Receiving:** 81-892 (9 TD).

**CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards):** Gabe Dupree 4-24, Ian Greenberg 2-17, Demo Pickens 1-36, Dre Walker 1-13, Kris Phillips 1-5, Austin Carroll 1-1, Amaron Hobson 1-0, Jake Knox 1-0, Team 12-96. **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:** 10.

**CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards):** Demo Pickens 6-130 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 3-46, 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 15-240 (1 TD). **OPP Kickoff Returns:** 45-952 (1 TD).

**CC Punt Returns:** Demo Pickens 7-46, Squirt Pickens 2-38, Team 9-84. **OPP Punt Returns:** None.

**CC Punt Blocks:** Kris Phillips 1.

**CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points):** DK Woods 27-0-0-0-162, Ben Burgess 7-1-0-0-44, Noah Mayfield 0-0-1-41-44, 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, Kris Phillips 1-0-0-0-6, Amaron Hobson 1-0-0-0-6, team safety 2, Team 50-3-1-41-352 (includes 1 safety). **OPP Scoring:** 21-0-1-17-146.



**Above:** DK Woods (32) -- running behind blocks by Carson Bridger (79), Austin Carroll (7), Garner Brown (67), and Nolen Turner (54) -- went nuts, gaining 231 yards in 22 carries and scoring five times. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** South Side's Kaden Currie (9) is about to be gang-tackled by Crockett defenders Titus Luten and Amaron Hobson (left), and Kris Phillips (16), Ian Greenberg (19), Grant Smallwood (77), Austin Carroll (7), and Zerafin Guardian (76). (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** More from the cheer competition routine (from left): Gabby Dobbelaire, Emmie Pickens, Kinzey Hutchison, and Aurliana Taylor. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Crockett's defense made another big stop against the Hawks' Kaden Currie (9) when linebacker Jake Knox (35) got hold of his jersey from below and slowed him up until Grant Smallwood (77), Austin Carroll (7), Dre Walker (6), and Gabe Dupree (29) could finish him off. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Right:** Kris Phillips got behind the South Side secondary ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** ... and hauled in this perfect strike from Ben Burgess ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Plays like that one keep Kaylei Porter cheering on her Cavaliers. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** ... and then was off to the races for his first touchdown of the season on the 81-yard play. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Dre Walker (6) killed South Side's first drive, intercepting this pass at the three and returning it 13 yards in the first quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** While it didn't count in the season statistics because it came on a two-point conversion play, Gabe Dupree made an interception after the lone Hawk touchdown to keep the score at 6-6. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** DK Woods scored his third touchdown through a gaping hole created by the blocking of Carson Bridger (79) and Brooks Harris (73). (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Kennedy Henning is all enthusiastic as the Crockett cheer team entertains the crowd. (Photo by Ron Barry)





**Above:** Grant Smallwood (77) and John Christopher (59) have South Side's Kaden Currie (9) hemmed in again. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Karsen Burgess (2) gets loose for another sizeable gain down the right sideline. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Titus Luten (38) tries to corral South Side quarterback Gavin Stewart (3). (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Right:** Mia Simmons does her thing during the competition squad's performance. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Noah Mayfield boots another extra point out of the hold of Kris Phillips. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Austin Carroll (7) and Amari Hobson (on ground) broke up this South Side pass play, deflecting the ball ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** ... in the direction of Squirt Pickens (23), who just missed making an interception. (Photo by Ron Barry)





**Above:** Crockett's Randle Perry (50) makes a diving tackle on the Hawks' Braydon Weldon as a host of teammates join the pursuit. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** DK Woods (32) drags South Side's Simeon Graham (11) along as he churns for yardage behind the blocks of Sebastian Garduno (63), Carson Bridger (79), and Brooks Harris (73). (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Jake Knox (35) and Grant Smallwood (77) mangle another Hawk running back on this no-gainer. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Left:** Lexie Beard is all smiles as the cheer competition teams performs at halftime. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Crockett played hard all the way to the final horn. On the next to last play of the game, defensive backs Jeremiah Young (1) and Brody Parlow (5) fight to keep South Side's Simeon Graham out of the end zone. They knocked him out of bounds at the one, and the line stuffed a run on the next play to preserve the 41-6 triumph. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Above:** Coach Kevin Ward encourages his troops as they now begin preparations for TSSAA playoffs, which begin next Friday night (for Crockett) at Memphis Kirby. (Photo by Ron Barry)