CAVALIERS LOOK TO OVERCOME THE PEARL-COHN PEDIGREE IN PLAYOFF ROUND #2



Above: Crockett County's defense will need a strong effort from senior Austin Carroll and his fellow linebackers Friday night against Pearl-Cohn. (Photo by Ron Barry)

A team steeped in a tradition of state championship runs awaits Crockett County tonight as the Cavaliers journey to Nashville for Round #2 of the TSSAA State Football Playoffs.

In the last six years alone, Music City's Pearl-Cohn has captured one state title (in 2023) and finished as runner-up on three other occasions. And as winners of their last seven games – including a 70-7 romp over Battle Creek in their playoff opener last week – the Firebirds appear to be in high gear as Coach Kevin Ward's troops (9-2) prepare to furnish the opposition.

Crockett County is one of four Region 7-4A teams still alive in the tournament after Round #1, having squeaked past Memphis Kirby 28-26 on a last-minute pass interception by Squirt Pickens last Friday. The toughness of the Cavaliers' region will hopefully provide the necessary readiness to duel Pearl-Cohn, which has talented athletes up and down its roster and has the ability to both run and throw the ball.

"It will definitely be a challenge," Ward said earlier this week. "They've played a very tough schedule, especially early in the season. But in their region, they had a two-point win against Springfield, and I believe we have a better athletic group of players than Springfield does. So I have to believe they're beatable. But we'll have to play a whole lot better than we did against Kirby." In that contest, Crockett's defense yielded an uncharacteristic 515 yards of total offense to the Memphians, and the Cav offense turned the ball over four times as well.

"If we do that again, we'll get blown out," Ward said. "So we need to just make sure we don't do it again. If we execute and play our best, there's no reason to think this won't be a good football game."

The game is scheduled for a 7:00 kickoff at Pearl-Cohn, whose football field is located between Morena Street and Herman Street off 28th Avenue North in Nashville.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Khylee Cobb netted nine of her game-high 14 points in the third quarter as Coach Jamar Turner's CCMS Lady Cavaliers improved to 5-4 on the season by toppling visiting Union City 28-21 Thursday night in Alamo. After holding the Lady Tornados to just two points in the opening period, Crockett found itself behind 13-11 at the halftime break. But Cobb's offensive explosion helped the hosts outscore Union City 15-5 in the third quarter and swing the decision in the Lady Cavs' favor.

Addie Whitby added eight points and Addison Ward four for the winners, who will next face Paris Inman in Alamo Saturday at 10:00 a.m.

In Thursday's nightcap, Union City's boys used an extremely balanced offensive attack to defeat Crockett 35-24. Four different Tornado players scored between seven and 11 points, while the Cavs' top scorer was Cade Reasons with six. Crockett was also just one-of-eight from the free throw line, while Union City converted eight of its 13 foul shots.

Crockett Girls 28, Union City 21
Crockett – Khylee Cobb 14, Addie Whitby 8, Addison Ward 4, Trinity Pankey 2. 2-Pt FG: 11. 3-Pt FG: 2 (Cobb 2). FT: 0-2. Record: 5-4.
UC – Aryannah Huff 13, Pyper Prather 5, Charlie Belle Cruce 3. 2-Pt FG: 3. 3-Pt FG: 3 (Huff 2, Prather). FT: 6-12.

Union City 35, Crockett Boys 24
Crockett – Cade Reasons 6, Jayce Cobb 5, Messiah McCurry 3, Jordan Young 3, Luke McCall 3, Jaylen Frye 2, Kamden Lewis 2. 2-Pt FG: 7. 3-Pt FG: 3 (McCall, Young, Cobb). FT: 1-8. Record: 4-5.
UC – Brody Fields 11, Jaybren Morrow 9, Brayson Smith 8, Trey Kail 7. 2-Pt FG: 6. 3-Pt FG: 5 (Fields 2, Morrow, Smith, Kail). FT: 8-13.



Above: Everyone knows that Pearl-Cohn's defense will be keying on stopping Cavalier running back DK Woods. Can quarterback Ben Burgess keep the Firebirds occupied enough to free up yardage for Woods? (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Khylee Cobb's big third-quarter outburst paced the CCMS Lady Cavaliers' basketball win Thursday night against Union City. (Photo by Beth Williams)