

ONE BAD INNING DOWNS CAVALIER BASEBALLERS IN SEASON OPENER AT CHESTER COUNTY



Above: Crockett's Aiden Austin beats the tag placed on his back as he steals second base in the middle innings of the Cavalier season opener Monday night at Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

One bad hop and another bad bounce cost Crockett County in the baseball season opener at Chester County, and the Eagles escaped with a 4-1 victory Monday night in Henderson.

The game was scoreless entering the bottom of the fifth inning. Carter Winders, the Cavaliers' starting pitcher, had limited Chester County to a single hit and a couple of walks over the first four frames, striking out eight in the process. Left fielder Brody Parlow bailed Winders out of the only jam he faced by catching a long drive up against the fence with two out and two runners on, ending the fourth by snaring a ball he later said he had lost in the dim lighting at the Henderson field.

With Winders at his pitch limit for an early-season game, the Cavs switched to reliever Mason Ray, who quickly retired the first two batters he faced before yielding a hard line-drive double down the left-field line. Then came the hard-luck plays for the visitors.

The next hitter sizzled a hard ground ball up the middle, but Winders – now playing shortstop and moving quickly to his left – had a bead on it to at least knock the ball down and prevent the runner from scoring. But as he went into his dive, the ball took a ferocious hop right over his extended body and rolled into center field, giving the Eagles a 1-0 lead.

After another lined double to left put Chester County runners on second and third – still with two outs – the next batter drilled a shot up the middle which hit Ray in the foot and ricocheted so far into foul territory near the Cav dugout that no fielder could reach it in time to prevent two more runs from scoring, boosting the margin to 3-0. Another single plated the fourth tally.

Meanwhile, Crockett batters were having long at-bats, seeing a lot of pitches, and generally making solid contact – although they did accumulate 10 strikeouts – but couldn't string their hits together. Five different Cavs collected hits: Callan Willis, Aiden Austin, Brady Fronabarger, Landry Fronabarger, and George Randall. Austin also walked twice and stole a base.

The Cavs did avoid the shutout in the top of the seventh when Brady Fronabarger hit a two-out single and came all the way around to score when the Eagle right fielder misplayed a long fly ball by Winders.

In addition to Parlow's left-field catch, Randall had the defensive play of the night for Crockett when he chased a foul pop fly around the front screen of the Eagle dugout and made a juggling snare as he almost ran out the side gate. It didn't count – umpires ruled him as in the dugout area when he circumvented the front fence – but it was impressive nonetheless.

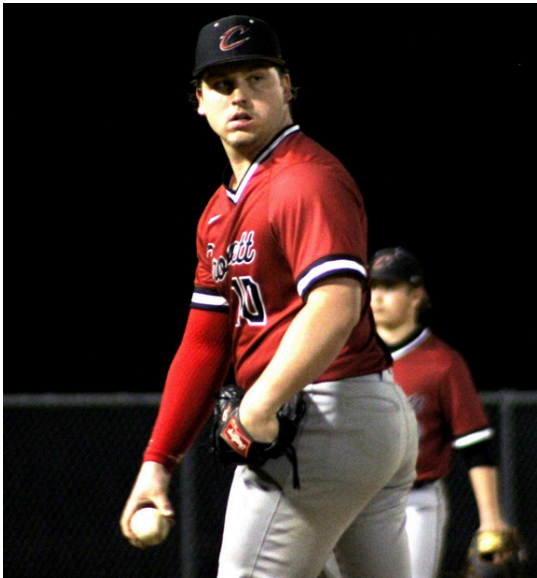
Coach Brad Smith was making his debut as Cavalier head coach, but had to do so down two of the players who should be keys to the Crockett lineup this season: pitcher Nash Kilburn (out with the flu) and infielder Karson Kail (in concussion protocol from a basketball injury). Smith is being assisted this season by Jacob Clark, Boone Parlow, and Matt Mosier.

MORE SPORTS TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY: Three Crockett teams play Tuesday. The softball team debuts its season at Halls at 5:00. The boys soccer team is home to take on Madison Academic at 6:30. The baseball team tries to bounce back in a 7:00 home duel with Gibson County. On Wednesday, Crockett's track& field squad opens its season at Dyersburg in a 4:30 meet originally scheduled for Thursday.

COLE STILL RAKING: Former Crockett County star catcher Lynden Cole continued to rake in her collegiate sophomore season at the University of Arkansas-Rich Mountain last week, recording a walk-off hit and hammering her sixth home run of the season through the Lady Bucks' first 16 games.

Cole – who has played in all 16 games as UARM has constructed a 9-7 record – is batting a scorching .477 and has an on-base percentage of almost 57%. She leads the team in runs scored (17), hits (21), doubles (4), home runs (6), runs batted in (20), walks (9), extra-base hits (10), total bases (43), and slugging percentage (.977), in addition to her batting average and on-base percentage marks.

The Lady Bucks play a doubleheader against Paris Junior College on Thursday in their next outing.



Above: The Cavs' 4-1 loss spoiled an excellent start on the mound by Carter Winders, who hurled four scoreless innings of one-hit, eight-strikeout ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Brody Parlow's bat defies gravity, dancing to his left as he races down the line to try to beat out a ground ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: George Randall always tries to enjoy himself while competing, whether in baseball or golf. Here he celebrates his late-inning base hit. (Photo by Ron Barry)



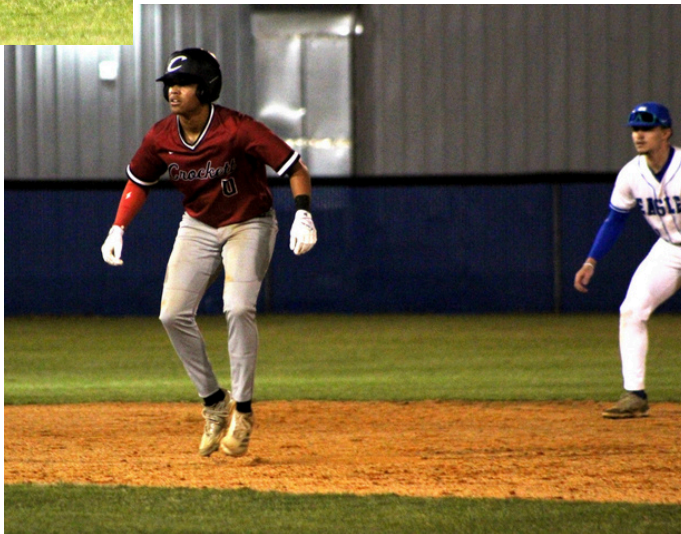
Below: Crockett's new head coach Brad Smith keeps tabs on Cav baserunner Aiden Austin as he leads off third base. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: George Randall also made this amazing catch of a foul pop-up, requiring him to run around and behind the front screen of the Eagle dugout. Umpires ruled that a ball can not be caught behind that fence, so it was nullified. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Brady Fronabarger hit the ball hard in all four of his at-bats, finally collecting a hit on the fourth one. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Callan Willis dances off second base as he tries to generate a Cavalier scoring opportunity. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Catcher Sam Proctor has a word with pitcher Carter Winders as they discuss strategy in the fourth-inning Eagle threat. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Mason Ray lines a shot down the right-field line, but the ball fell just foul to negate a potential double. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Coach Brad Smith has a chat between innings with Cav reserve Rylan Redding. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Sophomore Landry Fronabarger had a base hit in his final trip to the plate Monday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Aiden Austin reached base three times in four at-bats against Chester County. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Former Crockett softball star Lynden "Lou" Cole is off to a ridiculously hot start this season at UARM, leading her team in virtually every offensive statistical category. (Photo by Ron Barry)