

LONG ODDS AND THE LONG BALL: CROCKETT'S SPORTS TUESDAY WAS WILD!



Above: Angel Garcia (left) and Luke Carter (1) rush in to celebrate with Adrian Calderon, who has just scored the game-tying goal against Madison Academic with only 6:21 left to play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

One fighter got up off the deck after almost being counted out and forced a draw. The other two duels featured slugfests.

Sounds like a summary of a boxing card held in Las Vegas, right? Actually, it's a brief recap of Tuesday night's action on the Crockett County sports scene.

The draw occurred when the Cavalier soccer team, in its season opener, came back from the nearly-dead in the second half and earned an improbable 2-2 draw with talented Madison Academic after having virtually no answers for the visiting Mustangs in the opening 40 minutes.

The slugfests came on the various diamonds. Crockett's baseball team – one night after nearly being shut out – launched five long home runs in its home opener, crushing Gibson County 14-1. The softball team, opening its season on the road in Halls, banged seven extra-base hits and had two pitchers combine for a no-hitter in rolling over the Lady Tigers 14-0.

Wednesday's sports action will belong solely to Crockett's track & field squad, which will open its season in a 4:30 meet at Dyersburg.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: Coach Joey Soriano's highly-touted Cavaliers ran into a 40-minute buzzsaw in the opening half against Madison's Mustangs, who stopped every form of Crockett attack in taking a surprising 2-0 lead into the intermission. Goalkeeper Connor Donnell completely negated the Cavs' offense and used his booming punts to set up the visitors' goals. The second came almost immediately after Donnell blocked a penalty kick and launched a long outlet pass downfield, instigating the eventual goal by Joshua Metcalf.

The 2-0 margin held until midway through the second half, when Braulio Marquez finally got the Cavs on the scoreboard. His goal fueled a Crockett surge over the game's final 10 minutes, and the hosts finally broke through again when Adrian Calderon faked one man out of a double-team defense and then rocketed a surprise shot past the other one, booming the ball into the net with 6:21 to play and igniting a wild celebration by his teammates.

Madison managed to turn away several other Cav scoring chances in the fading minutes, securing the 2-2 draw. Both teams were state tournament participants a year ago.

Crockett will next play in a Memphis tournament beginning Friday. Collierville will be the 6:00 opponent, followed by a 2:00 Saturday match with Houston and an 8:00 morning game with Christian Brothers on Sunday.

BASEBALL: Maybe all they needed was to get on a field with better lighting.

Coach Brad Smith's Cavaliers, who played on a dimly-lit Dixie Youth field in Henderson in losing 4-1 to Chester County Monday night, wasted no time enjoying their home opener when catcher Carter Winders belted a grand slam in an eight-run first inning that also featured a leadoff double and later a home run by outfielder Callan Willis.

Both Winders and Willis would homer again in the rout, as would first baseman Brady Fronabarger. Crockett ended up with 11 hits overall, with three by Willis for four runs batted in and two by Winders for seven RBIs. Fronabarger also collected two hits, and Aiden Austin, Landry Fronabarger, George Randall, and Sam Proctor had the other safeties.

Winning pitcher Austin went the five-inning distance in the run-ruled game, limiting Gibson County to four hits and recording three strikeouts. He only needed 53 pitches to complete the five frames.

Crockett will play at Covington at 6:00 Friday and at Bartlett at 2:30 Saturday.

SOFTBALL: Coach Baron Jimmerson's troops kicked off their season with a bang – actually, several of them – in trouncing Halls. Left fielder Kiyra Liggins slammed run-scoring doubles in the first, third, and fifth innings to spark the offense and Anna Stallings (three innings) and Emmalynn Medlin (two) combined for the no-hitter, with Stallings notching four strikeouts in her stint.

Maddie Haynes, Madison Stitts, Syesha Torres, and Wesley Thornton joined Liggins in the doubles parade. Liggins had four RBIs in the contest, with Stitts collecting three and Haynes two. Nataly Amador smacked two hits and scored three runs for the winners.

Crockett will showcase its home opener Thursday in a 5:30 matchup with Haywood.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: Lucas Morales scored three goals and Henry Mayfield and Andy Aguirre combined to post a clean sheet as the CCMS soccer team defeated Chester County 6-0 Monday night.

Morales scored his goals within a three-minute span of the opening half and also assisted on a goal by Jaaziel Perez. Brendan Green contributed a goal and two assists and Caleb Ferguson netted the remaining Cav tally. Crockett was able to get its entire roster into the match, providing an opportunity for the younger players to gain some experience.

CCMS will play its first district match Thursday against Milan.



Above: Carter Winders hammered a grand slam home run in the first inning – his first of two dingers on the night -- and drove in seven runs as Crockett ripped Gibson County 14-1. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Braulio Marquez netted the Cavaliers' first goal of the second half to fuel their comeback and earn the draw with Madison. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Taking orders for another two-homer game from a Crockett player? "Yes, please," says Callan Willis, who smashed two bombs and a double for the Cavs in crushing Gibson County 14-1. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Chris Cerda tracks a ball to make a header pass against Madison Academic Tuesday night in the Cavs' season opener. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: Brady Fronabarger joined the Crockett home run parade with this smash beyond the right-center fence, one of his two hits on the night. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Max Utley provided his usual solid defense in the backfield in Crockett's 2-2 draw with the Mustangs Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Aiden Austin was Crockett's winning pitcher Tuesday, going the five-inning distance on a four-hitter. He also reached base three times himself. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: When Luke Carter turns on the jets to go after a ball, there may be no one faster in West Tennessee soccer than Crockett's #1. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: After Carter Winders reached home following his second homer of Tuesday's game, he tapped helmets with (left to right) Brady Fronabarger, Carson Webb, and Landry Fronabarger. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Angel Garcia keeps his eyes on the ball -- almost literally -- as he tracks this pass and contemplates what he wants to do with it. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Below: Callan Willis watches his second homer of the night sail toward the left-center fence on his way to a 4-RBI evening. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kiyra Liggins was doubling her pleasure in the softball season opener at Halls, ripping three two-baggers and driving in four runs. (Photo by Ron Barry)