

BOTH CROCKETT COUNTY DIAMOND TEAMS SUCCESSFUL ON COVINGTON TRIP (MARCH 6 RECAP)



Above: Brady Fronabarger -- three hits vs. Covington.
(Photo by Ron Barry)

Although delayed a bit by a bout with the flu, Nash Kilburn's first outing in a Crockett County baseball uniform confirmed that the wait was worth it.

Kilburn transferred in to Crockett for his senior year of high school and is expected to be one of the mainstays of the Cavalier pitching staff on Coach Brad Smith's club. He did not disappoint Friday night in his debut at Covington, where he scattered six hits over five innings, allowed only one earned run, and struck out six as the Cavs downed the Chargers 7-2.

Kilburn's win capped a highly successful night for Crockett diamonders in Covington, as the Lady Cavalier softballers rolled to a 10-0 triumph behind the three-hit shutout pitching of senior Anna Stallings and the continuation of a blistering offensive start to the season by Kiyra Liggins.

BASEBALL: Kilburn got all the run support he would need when the Cavaliers scored three times in the top of the first. With one out, Kilburn was hit by a pitch and Brady Fronabarger doubled on a line drive to center, moving courtesy runner Davis Porter around to third. Carter Winders followed with another double to left field, plating both runners for a 2-0 Crockett advantage. An eventual groundout by Landry Fronabarger chased home Carson Webb, who was a courtesy runner for catcher Winders.

The Cavs added another tally in the top of the third when Brady Fronabarger singled and took second on an error. Aiden Austin brought him home with a two-out single to right field, and Crockett led 4-0. Covington got one back in the bottom of the frame on a couple of singles sandwiching a stolen base, but the Cavs quickly struck again with a three-spot in the top of the fourth.

George Randall singled and ended up at third when Mason Ray's bunt was thrown errantly by the Charger pitcher, putting two runners in scoring position. Sam Proctor scored Randall with a lined sacrifice fly to right, and Ray then came home on a groundout by Callan Willis. Kilburn reached all the way to second on a ground ball error, and courtesy runner Porter was chased home by another Brady Fronabarger single, his third hit of the game.

A passed ball and an error contributed to Covington's second run in the bottom of the fifth, but reliever Willis came on in the sixth to slam the door on the Charger offense, accumulating three strikeouts in the seventh inning to seal Crockett's victory, their second in three contests this season.

The Cavs outhit Covington 11-6 and survived four defensive errors. In addition to Brady Fronabarger's three safeties, Winders and Landry Fronabarger had two hits apiece.

Two schedule changes were announced Friday. Crockett's game at Bartlett originally scheduled for Saturday has been moved to March 20 at 7 p.m. Monday's game at Milan will now begin at 4:30, flipping times with the JV duel, which will now follow the varsity matchup.

SOFTBALL: Liggins went 3-for-3 with four RBIs in the 10-0 rout of Covington, bringing her season totals through three games to 8-for-9 with 11 runs knocked in.

Winning pitcher Stallings showed why Christian Brothers University signed her to a scholarship by blanking the host Lady Chargers for six innings, striking out seven and walking just two. She benefitted strongly from a four-run uprising in the top of the first from the Lady Cav offense.

Wesley Thornton led off with a walk and stole second, advancing to third on a single by Nataly Amador. Liggins smashed a hard groundball into left field, where it was booted, allowing both baserunners to score and Liggins to reach second. Madison Stitts chased her home with a line-drive triple to right field and tallied on a ground ball by Maddie Haynes.

The Lady Cavs added a tally in the second when Piper Smith singled and came all the way around to score when Amador's grounder was thrown away by the shortstop. Crockett led 5-0 at that point.

In the top of the third, the scorching Liggins led off with a double and scored on a single by Haynes. Covington failed to score in the bottom of the frame when Thornton – playing shortstop in this game – turned a bases-loaded pop fly into a double play.

Crockett's run parade continued in the fourth when Macie Teel reached on an error and courtesy runner Fallon Beard moved to third on another miscue, eventually scoring on a groundout by Smith.

In the sixth, Smith reached on an error and came home on a line-drive double to left by Thornton, who promptly stole third and then jogged home when Liggins belted a double to center. Another error on a Stitts grounder sent the final Crockett run home.

Backing the big game by Liggins offensively, Thornton had two hits, a walk, and three stolen bases. Covington committed seven errors as Coach Baron Jimmerson's Lady Cavs improved to 3-0 on the season. They'll travel to Chester County Monday for a 5:30 road game.



Above: Carter Winders -- two hits, two RBIs vs. Covington. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kiyra Liggins -- through three games: 8-for-9 with 11 RBIs. (Photo by Ron Barry)