TCA DEFEATS CROCKETT DIAMONDERS ON TWO-OUT, SIX-RUN RALLY IN FIFTH INNING



Above: Aiden Austin pitched well for the Cavaliers before tiring to begin the fifth inning. (Photo by Ron Barry)

One out they gave away and another out they couldn't get came back to haunt Crockett County's baseball team Tuesday evening in Alamo.

The out they couldn't get came in the top of the fifth inning when visiting Trinity Christian Academy scored six runs after two outs had been recorded, making all the difference in a game won by the Lions 7-4.

The out they gave away came in the bottom of the second. The Cavaliers, trailing 1-0, had loaded the bases and had the top of the batting order coming up. A courtesy runner had entered for catcher Scott Proctor, who had been hit by a pitch to fill the sacks after consecutive singles by George Randall and Mason Ray.

TCA pitcher Thomas Thornton threw ball one to Crockett's Callan Willis, meaning that his next pitch would most likely have to be in the strike zone where Willis – who had a two-homer game last week – would have a chance to take a good whack at it. But Thornton never had to throw the next offering, because Lion catcher John Brooks snared the "ball one" pitch and gunned it down to first baseman Cason White, who slapped the tag on the Cav runner who had wandered too far off the base.

Ending that threat in that situation was particularly painful considering Willis would go on to have a 3-for-3 night with a walk and two runs scored.

TCA's Thornton pitched around trouble impressively the rest of the contest until getting within an out of a complete game. That's when Crockett's Brady Fronabarger belted his third home run of the young season, a blast to center field that defied a brisk crosswind to find its way over the fence and cut the Lion lead to 7-4. When Carter Winders followed with a long double, Thornton exited in favor of second baseman Zach Bobo, who got the final out for the save.

The Lions had taken a 1-0 advantage in the top of the first when third baseman Joe Cole skied a fly ball to right-center in the exact direction of the gusty wind, which carried it just beyond the reach of a leaping Nash Kilburn at the fence. Cole's homer would be the only blemish against Crockett starter Aiden Austin until he began to tire in the top of the fifth.

By then, Coach Brad Smith's Cavs had fought back to take the lead in the bottom of the third. Willis led off with a single and advanced to second when Kilburn reached on an infield error. Fronabarger then ripped a line-drive single to left to plate Willis, and brother Landry Fronabarger smacked a single into center to load the bases. A sacrifice fly by Austin brought in the tally that gave the hosts a 2-1 edge.

Crockett escaped trouble in the fourth when – with the bases loaded, two outs, and the powerful Cole at bat – he blooped a pop fly down the right-field line just out of the reach of a hustling Fronabarger, but right fielder Kilburn sped in to make a sliding catch on his knees to quell the rally.

Austin was tiring noticeably when he began the fifth, yielding a single and then issuing a four-pitch walk which included a wild pitch. Rylan Redding entered in relief for the Cavs and gave up a single to White before Knox Atwood smoked a sinking liner to right field, but Kilburn made another diving catch and hurried the ball back in keep all three runners in check. When Redding struck out the next batter for the second out, it looked like Crockett might escape again.

TCA's Bobo had other ideas, though, and stroked a soft liner just over shortstop Mason Ray's head for a two-run single, regaining the lead for the Lions. Owen Atwood then beat out a softly-hit infield grounder, plating another tally. Max Richardson lined a single to center to make it 5-2 before Cole drilled an RBI double to left-center. The final tally crossed on a Cavalier infield error.

That was all the scoring until Brady Fronabarger's homer in the seventh. TCA outhit Crockett 12-10. Catcher Brooks had three of them, while Cole added his homer and double. White and Cameron Hardin also had two hits apiece for the Lions. Willis and Fronabarger were the only Cavs with multiple safeties.

Crockett is now 3-2 on the season and is scheduled to play at Trenton's Peabody Wednesday night at 6:30, weather permitting. The Lady Cavalier softball team had its Tuesday game canceled because of the wet field and will next play Thursday in Jackson in the annual Sarah Beth Whitehead Memorial Tournament at the Sportsplex. Crockett will face Brighton at 6:00 and Collierville at 7:30.

BOYS SOCCER: Chris Cerda netted a pair of goals and Braulio Marquez and Adrian Calderon booted in one apiece as Coach Joey Soriano's Cavaliers posted their first victory of the season Tuesday night, downing Lexington 4-0.

The road win followed season-opening ties with Henry County and Madison Academic, giving Crockett a 1-0-2 record currently. A tournament in Memphis was weathered out this past weekend.

The Cavs will next host Lakeland Prep Friday night at 6:00.



Above: Crockett just missed a double play when Nash Kilburn (in the outfield) made a diving catch, quickly jumped up, and threw to shortstop Mason Ray (24). The ball is about three inches from landing in Ray's glove, which would have doubled off TCA's Greg Carter (diving back to the bag). The Lions went on to rally for six runs in this fifth inning. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Nash Kilburn got the Cavs out of another bases-loaded jam an inning earlier when he made this sliding grab (on his knees) of a Joe Cole pop down the right field line. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Brady Fronabarger launched his third home run of the season with this swing, as he and TCA catcher John Brooks follow its flight path. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: For a young player, Rylan Redding did a credible job in relief in an extremely tough situation for the Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)



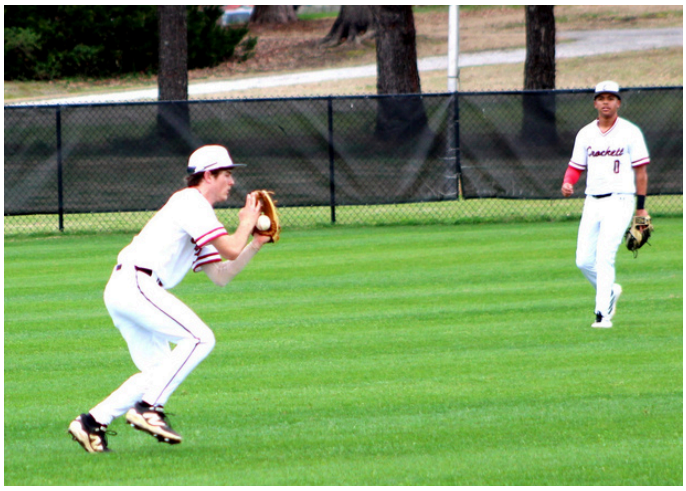
Left: Callan Willis, who went 3-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored, chases down this deep fly ball in center field. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Carter Winders, playing second base in this game, looks like this throw from Sam Proctor may beat TCA's Cameron Hardin to the bag on an attempted steal, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... but Hardin skillfully slides to the inside and beats the tag by turning his body. (Photo by Ron Barry)

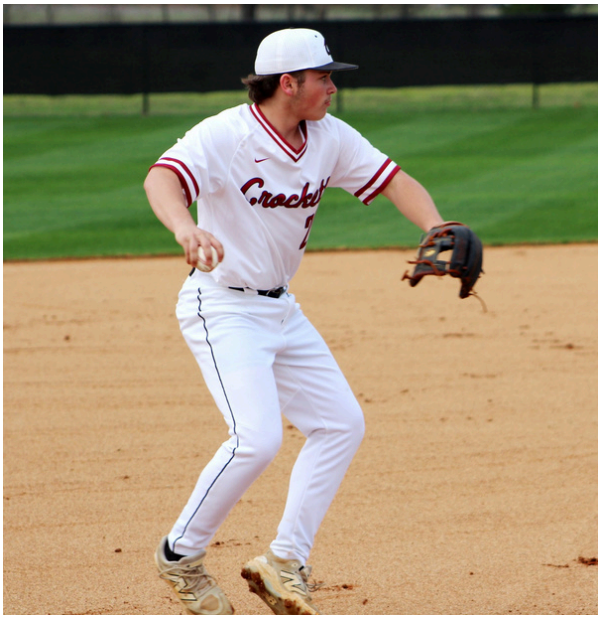




Above: Brody Parlow navigated the tricky gusty wind to make this catch early in the game, and then snared a tough bases-loaded line drive to end an uprising later. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Brady Fronabarger (7) taps helmets at home plate with Callan Willis and Carter Winders after slamming his seventh-inning home run. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Third baseman George Randall prepares to gun a baserunner down after snaring this hard ground ball at the hot corner. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Coach Brad Smith returns to the dugout after making a fifth-inning pitching change. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Mason Ray earned a base hit by beating out this ground ball down the third base line. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Chris Cerda -- pictured here in last week's match with Madison Academic -- scored two goals Tuesday night to lead Crockett's soccer team past Lexington 4-0. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Ruth Gourley -- leading this pack of runners at last week's meet in Dyersburg -- will be among the Crockett athletes competing Thursday when CCHS debuts its new track facility in a 4:30 event. (Photo by Ron Barry)