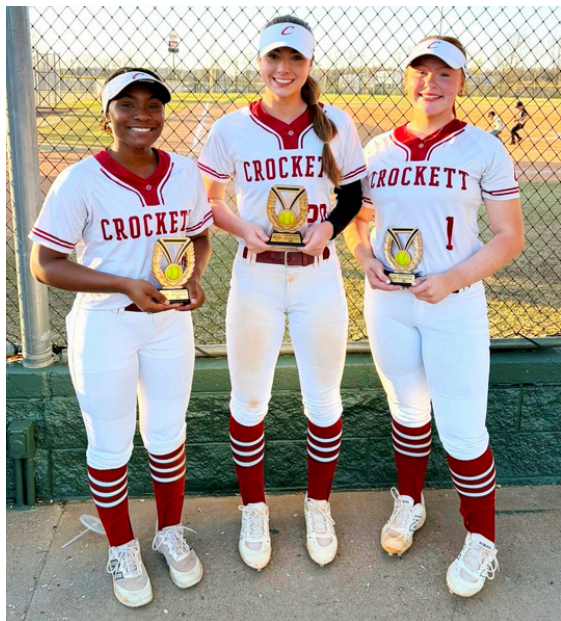


HAYNES, MEDLIN BOOST CROCKETT COUNTY TO SARAH BETH WHITEHEAD TOURNAMENT TITLE



Above: Kiyra Liggins, Wesley Thornton, and Emmalynn Medlin were named to the All-Tournament Team.

They started the tournament with a defeat of Collierville and then ended it the same way.

Maddie Haynes stroked the key hit and Emmalynn Medlin made it stand up as Crockett County edged the Lady Dragons 4-2 Saturday afternoon in the championship game of the annual Sarah Beth Whitehead Memorial Tournament at the Jackson Sportsplex.

It was the fourth win of the day and the sixth of the three-day event for Coach Baron Jimmerson's Lady Cavaliers, who now stand 9-0 to begin the 2026 season.

Haynes, Crockett's sophomore first baseman, drove in three runs with a bases-loaded hit in the opening inning, which turned out to be all Medlin would need on the pitching front. The sophomore redhead went the five-inning distance for the winners, allowing only unearned single runs in the fourth and fifth innings in spacing five hits and striking out five.

Medlin was one of three Lady Cavs named to the All-Tournament Team, joining Kiyra Liggins and Wesley Thornton. Medlin was the winning pitcher in three contests and picked up a save in a 4-3 semifinal victory over top-seeded Lexington.

Thornton – who incredibly has an extra-base hit in every game Crockett has played – batted .636 (7-for-11) in the tournament, scoring nine runs, driving in four, and receiving five walks. She was on base in 75% of her plate appearances. Liggins hit .538 (7-for-13) in the event, scored seven runs, drove in five, and drew two walks. She was on base 60% of her at-bats.

Saturday's path to the championship:

First Round – Crockett 7, Chester County 5: The Lady Cavs yielded three unearned runs in the top of the first, but then tacked on a seven-spot in the bottom. Thornton led off with a double, Nataly Amador singled her home, and Crockett was off and running. Gabby Bursey singled in a run and Haynes knocked in two more with another single. An error on a line drive by Macie Teel brought two more tallies home before Thornton closed the scoring with an RBI single. Jimmerson's club survived a two-run rally by the Lady Eagles in the fourth.

Quarterfinals – Crockett 7, Brighton 1: Medlin (four innings) and Stella Ward (two) combined on a four-hitter, with Brighton's only run unearned. Crockett struck again quickly with a four-run first, ignited by another leadoff double by Thornton. Liggins singled in a run and Amador matched it in the second frame. Five Lady Cardinal errors figured in on the remainder of the runs. Bursey collected two hits for the Lady Cavs.

Semifinals – Crockett 4, Lexington 3: Thornton smashed a home run over the center-field fence to start the game, but the Lady Cavs trailed 3-1 after two innings. Lexington did not allow a single run during the pool play portion of the tournament, but Crockett struck for three after two were out in the top of the fourth.

Piper Smith drew a walk and Lexington chose to intentionally walk Thornton rather than risk another homer that would tie the game – which it had also done in the same situation in the second inning. But the Lady Cavs crashed that strategy this time when Amador singled to load the bases and Liggins followed with a sack-clearing double to right field and a 4-3 Crockett lead.

Medlin came on in relief of winning pitcher Anna Stallings for the bottom of the fourth and pitched around a leadoff walk to get the final three outs and the save. Liggins was 3-for-3 in the contest and Smith drew walks in both of her plate appearances.

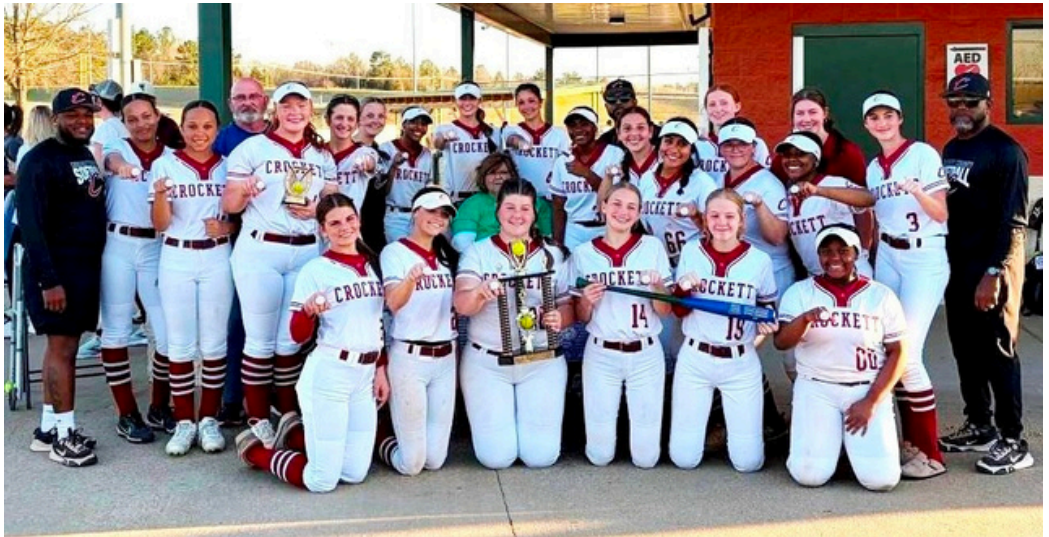
Championship Game – Crockett 4, Collierville 2: The Lady Dragons walked Thornton right off the bat in the first, but Liggins singled following a fielder's choice forceout. Bursey bunted and reached on an error to load the bases before Haynes drilled a liner into right field which brought all three runners home.

In the bottom of the third, Thornton rocketed a triple to right field and later scored on a wild pitch to provide a big insurance run for the Lady Cavs. It gave Medlin a little bit of wiggle room when outfield errors contributed to Collierville single runs in both the fourth and fifth frames, and she stranded the tying runs on base by ending the tournament with a strikeout.

The Sarah Beth Whitehead Memorial Tournament is held annually at Jackson's Sportsplex and is conducted as an awareness drive for organ donation by John and Tresa Whitehead, parents of the former freshman TCA athlete who died from meningitis several years ago.

Crockett's new tournament champions will be back in action Monday night, hosting Adamsville in a 5:30 matchup.

Below: Over the course of the tournament, Wesley Thornton hit three doubles, a triple, two home runs, and reached base in 75% of her plate appearances. (Photo by Ron Barry)

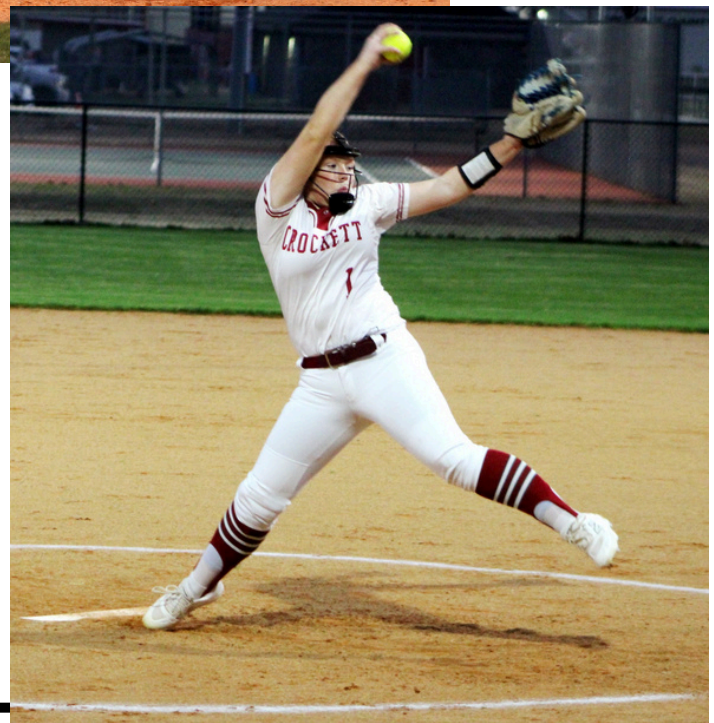


Above: Crockett County's Sarah Beth Whitehead Memorial Tournament champions celebrate with John and Tresa Whitehead.



Left: Maddie Haynes -- seen here in Friday's win over Peabody -- drove in three runs in the championship game. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Emmalynn Medlin picked up three pitching victories and a key semifinal save during the tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Kiyra Liggins reached base 60% of the time over the weekend, batting .538 in the six Crockett wins. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: In a tight semifinal game against Lexington, Piper Smith drew walks in front of Wesley Thornton twice, forcing the Lady Tigers to intentionally walk Thornton both times. (Photo by Ron Barry)

