

BASEBALLERS AVENGE LOSS TO CHESTER COUNTY 11-2; SOFTBALLERS POUND MUNFORD 13-3



Above: Carter Winders hurled another gem for Crockett County's baseballers and still hasn't yielded an earned run in three starts now for the Cavaliers. (Photo by Ron Barry)

When these two teams first met two weeks ago in the baseball season opener in Henderson, there was a nighttime chill in the air and barely any light on the field.

Tuesday in Alamo, there was still a chill in the air – it was close to freezing, actually – but there was bright sunshine for a 4 p.m. start. And Crockett County's Cavaliers apparently saw the ball a lot better than in their 4-1 loss to Chester County in the first duel, because this time the hosts run-ruled the Eagles 11-1 in five innings.

On the adjacent softball field on the CCHS campus, the Lady Cavaliers received 3-for-3 performances from Fallon Beaird and Nataly Amador, two doubles from Haley Leforgee, and another solid shared pitching effort from Emmalynn Medlin and Anna Stallings in downing visiting Munford 13-3 in six frames.

BASEBALL: It wasn't ideal baseball weather – the wind chill temperature was in the 20s – and for four-and-a-half innings, the offenses were frozen in a 1-1 deadlock. But in the bottom of the fifth, Coach Brad Smith's Cavs hung a 10-spot on Chester County to invoke the mercy rule and end the contest.

Crockett (now 6-2) took advantage of four Eagle errors and eight walks issued by three hurlers to add to its seven-hit attack and avenging its season-opening defeat.

Winning pitcher Carter Winders – who has yet to be touched for an earned run this season – went the distance, striking out nine while limiting the Eagles to a walk and three hits. Offensively, Winders went to the plate four times – and got hit by pitches twice and drew walks the other two. It was a microcosm of Chester County's pitching meltdown after a decent four-inning start by Lane Estes.

Tage Hill replaced Estes to begin the bottom of the fifth and issued five bases on balls among the nine batters he faced. He also yielded a single to Brady Fronabarger that was then booted in the outfield, allowing Nash Kilburn to score the initial run of the uprising. A couple of other Eagle errors figured into the rally, which was highlighted by a perfectly-executed push bunt down the first-base side with the bases loaded by Sam Proctor.

Proctor pushed his bunt beyond Hill on the mound and far enough away from first base that nobody could get to the bag to even make a throw. The RBI hit made it 5-1 at the time, and then Callan Willis and Kilburn drew bases-loaded walks to break the game open. When Aiden Austin drove in a run with a single and a ground-ball boot on a ball hit by George Randall allowed two more tallies, the game was officially over.

Crockett had taken a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first on a bases-loaded walk to Aiden Austin after a Willis double, a Fronabarger single, and a walk to Winders. The Cavs left the sacks jammed as the side was retired, and it looked like that missed opportunity would haunt them when Estes doubled in an Eagle runner who had reached on an infield error to make it 1-1 in the third. But the fifth-frame rally got them off the hook.

Proctor went 3-for-3 to headline Crockett's offense, with Fronabarger, Austin, and Randall recording two RBIs apiece. Fronabarger also stole two bases in addition to collecting two hits. The Cavs will face Fayette Academy at 6:30 Thursday night in their next outing.

SOFTBALL: Beaird, in the starting lineup for the first time since the season opener, rifled a triple off the fence in right-center to highlight a six-run rally in the first, added a two-RBI single in a five-run second, and lined a fourth-frame single to plate another tally as Crockett trounced Munford.

Amador was in the middle of the first two Lady Cavalier rallies with singles, and had another leading off the third. Maddie Haynes – who has a knack for finding gaps in the defense when batting with runners on – blooped a single right over the first baseman's head to drive home two in the first. Medlin also singled in a run, and Maddie Stitts chased two more home with a long triple. Syesha Torres brought the sixth run in with a sacrifice fly.

In the second, Gabby Bursey and Medlin smacked run-scoring singles before Beard hit her two-RBI safety following a Torres sacrifice bunt. Crockett's twelfth tally came in the fourth on an infield error, a fielder's choice, a double by Leforgee, and Beard's RBI single.

The Lady Cavs ended it in the sixth when Emilee Chandler singled, took second on a groundout, and raced home on Leforgee's second double.

Medlin and Stallings each went three innings in the circle for the winners (now 10-0), with only one of the three Munford runs being earned. The Lady Cougars managed just four hits, although one was a home run by Gracie Williams.

The Lady Cavs host Chester County Thursday at 5:30.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: Not even keeping two defenders back inside the box the whole match could significantly slow the potent CCMS offense, which still posted a 5-2 win over McNairy County Tuesday despite the strategy employed by the Bobcats.

"We played hard but faced a packed box all night," said Crockett assistant coach Graham Mayfield. "McNairy consistently had two defenders or more inside the 18 at all times that frustrated us."

The Cavs held a 3-1 edge at halftime. Lucas Morales scored at 17:22 on a penalty kick; Damian Marquez netted a shot on a Caleb Ferguson assist at 10:41; and Morales converted a Jaaziel Perez pass in the final minute. McNairy's goal came on a penalty kick at the 12:20 mark.

In the second half, Crockett went up 4-1 on another Morales goal on an assist from Marquez with 9:33 to play. The margin went to 5-1 when Ferguson scored at the 2:38 mark. The final Bobcat tally was scored with just 42 seconds left in the contest.

Andy Aguirre made two saves in goal for the Cavs, who will next play at South Gibson on Thursday at 6:00.



Above: Crockett catcher Sam Proctor lays down one of the greatest bunts in baseball history Tuesday, a push bunt past the pitcher that the first baseman had to field, way too far off the bag to even have a play on Proctor -- or anywhere else, because he did it with the bases loaded. It was part of a 3-for-3 game for Proctor. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Fallon Beard, in the starting softball lineup for the first time since the opening game, went 3-for-3 for the Lady Cavaliers against Munford, including timing this swing so perfectly that she launched a triple that rattled the fence in right-center. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Fallon Beard watches her blast sail toward the outfield as she follows through on her swing and gets ready to sprint. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Nataly Amador -- who was also 3-for-3 for the Lady Cavs Tuesday -- slides into home as the Munford throw eludes catcher Gracie Williams. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Brady Fronabarger slides into third to try to beat the throw on a bunt by teammate Aiden Austin. The ball was dropped anyway, so the Cav first sacker was safe. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Another slide play occurred at home plate when Crockett's Nash Kilburn got creative to get past the tag from Chester County catcher Dayton Lemmings, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

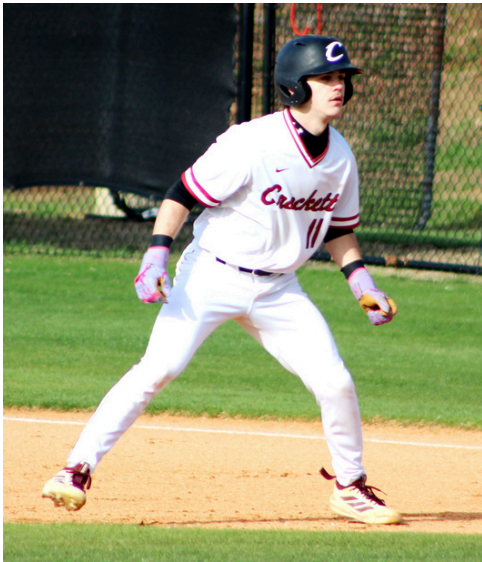
Right: ... skimming the dirt to the outside and reaching his hand back in to get the plate. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Callan Willis got the chilly day started for Crockett baseball by slamming a leadoff double into the left-center field gap. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Coach Brad Smith was bundled up in an attempt to stay warm, with the wind chill in the 20s Tuesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Sam Proctor leads off first during Crockett's 10-run rally in the fifth inning that ended the game by the mercy rule. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Madison Stitts gets a "distance" knuckle-bump from Coach Baron Jimmerson after slamming a first-inning triple against Munford Tuesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Crockett's Emmalynn Medlin -- with teammates Maddie Haynes (15) and Madison Stitts (third base) readying for a play -- pitches out of trouble in the opening inning ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Wesley Thornton removes her elbow guard on her way to first base after receiving one of the two walks issued to her Tuesday. Thornton's nine-game extra-base-hit streak was snapped, partially because she's starting to get fewer pitches in the strike zone from opposing pitchers. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: ... and then helps herself with this run-scoring single in the six-run bottom of the frame. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Haley Leforgee -- pictured here during Crockett's run to the Sarah Beth Whitehead Tournament championship this past weekend -- belted a pair of doubles in her two plate appearances Tuesday against Munford. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Nataly Amador was all over the bases for the Lady Cavs Tuesday, notching hits in three different innings. (Photo by Ron Barry)