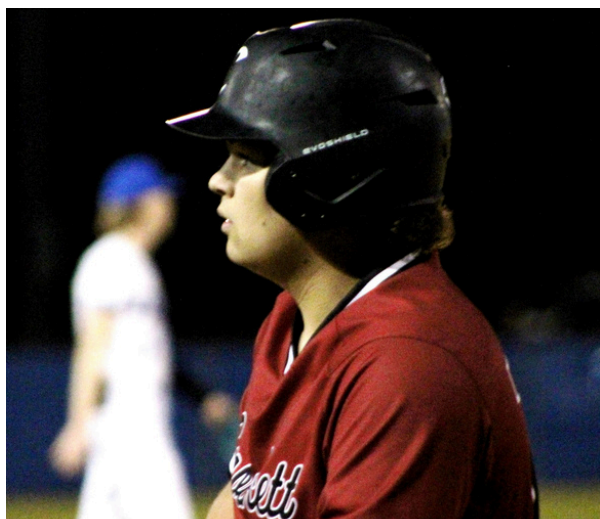


FRONABARGER- LANDRY THIS TIME!- KEEPS CAV BASEBALL WINNING STREAK ALIVE



Above: Sophomore Landry Fronabarger -- who has watched big brother Brady deliver his share of significant hits for Crockett -- delivered the game-winning hit Wednesday night against Naples (FL). (Photo by Ron Barry)

It's Easter Week, when believers in the Christian faith anticipate a Sunday resurrection.

For Crockett County's baseball Cavaliers, they experienced an early one Wednesday night.

Coach Brad Smith's diamonds -- in the midst of a magical season in which they have won twelve straight games, including a recent sweep of Tennessee's #2-ranked Dyer County -- traveled to Union City to begin play in the L. H. Ladd Memorial Baseball Classic.

Entering the bottom of the sixth inning in their opening game with Community School of Naples (FL), in what would likely be their final turn at bat due to a time limit, the Cavs were down 7-4 to the Seahawks -- and the first two Crockett hitters then struck out. It appeared the victory chances were dead.

The Cavs needed three runs to tie and four to win -- and they had no baserunners on and only one out left.

Senior leadoff man Callan Willis then lined a single to left for a brief glimmer of hope. Nash Kilburn drew a four-pitch walk -- and the women began heading toward the tomb, even though it was still dark.

Brady Fronabarger then crushed a 2-1 pitch deep to center field for a double, with Willis and Kilburn scoring to make it 7-6. The women picked up their pace a little bit; was that some kind of glow they saw off in the distance, in the direction of the burial place?

Carter Winders -- Crockett's hottest hitter over the past few weeks -- came to the plate with the tying run at second base, but drew a walk on a 3-2 wild pitch. He's now the winning run at first base. As the women neared the tomb and peered around a rock formation, they saw a rounded stone. Wait -- had it been moved?

Next to bat would be Landry Fronabarger -- Brady's "little" brother (there's nothing little about him) -- Crockett's designated hitter, and still a sophomore. Runners were now at first and third, as Brady had advanced on the wild pitch that walked Winders. And on the first toss to Landry, the Seahawk hurler uncorked another ball that eluded the catcher as Brady raced home to tie the score at 7-7. The women now clearly saw an angel.

Winders took second on the same wild pitch, and then -- when the count to Landry reached 0-2 -- the fleet-footed catcher stole third on ball one. The angel opened his mouth to speak to the women. Landry then ripped a ground-ball single to left field, Winders raced home, and Crockett had its miracle revival with an 8-7 triumph. The women heard the words of the angel: "He is not here; he has risen ... just as he said!"

The resurrected Cavaliers are now 16-2, winners of 13 consecutive contests. It wouldn't have happened if not for another strange occurrence, this time from a young man who's having quite a week. George Randall, Crockett's sophomore third baseman who delivered several key hits to spark the sweep over Dyer County, hasn't thrown a single pitch from the mound this season -- until Wednesday. With the Cavs trailing 7-4 after three innings, Randall took to the hill to begin the fourth and shut out the Naples lineup for the remaining three frames -- after hitting the first guy he faced -- by yielding just a couple of hits and striking out two to earn the win.

The Seahawks tallied twice in the top of the first before Winders sawed the margin in half by singling home Kilburn, who had lashed an opposite-field double. A triple and a Crockett error allowed the Floridians to move ahead 5-1 in the top of the second, but the Cavs countered with two in the bottom of the frame on an Aiden Austin single, a walk to Randall, a sacrifice bunt by Mason Ray, a run-scoring hit by Sam Proctor, and a Willis groundout that plated a run. Naples extended the lead to 7-3 in the top of the third, but Winders doubled -- his seventh straight hit over the last two games -- and Randall brought him home with a single to make it 7-4. That score stood until the sixth-inning resurrection.

Winders, Willis, and the Fronabarger brothers each collected two hits in the triumph. Crockett outdid the Seahawks 12-10.

The Cavs continue play in the Ladd Classic Thursday at 5:00 against Paducah (KY) Tilghman.



Above: Carter Winders collected hits in seven straight at-bats over the past two games before drawing the walk that eventually led him to score Wednesday night's winning run. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: George Randall threw three shutout innings of relief in his first pitching performance of the season, earning Wednesday night's win in the astounding comeback. (Photo by Ron Barry)