

## TWELVE STRAIGHT FOR RED-HOT DIAMONDERS; WINDERS SHINES IN 12-2 ROUT OF CHOCTAWS



**Above:** Carter Winders tossed a seven-inning five-hitter Tuesday night and smacked five hits himself as Crockett defeated Dyer County 12-2 in Newbern. (Photo by Ron Barry)

It's time to acknowledge that Coach Brad Smith is working something really special into his first season as Crockett County's baseball coach.

A veteran of several years as a head coach in the Memphis area – at both the high school and USA National Team levels – Smith arrived with an unabashed love for the sport and a significant attention to detail, with both traits on evident display as his initial Cavalier campaign has progressed.

That progression has reached the level of a speeding train this week as the Cav diamonders took two straight games from the state's #2-ranked team – according to the latest Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association poll for Class AAA schools – concluding the sweep Tuesday night in Newbern with a resounding 12-2 pounding of Dyer County.

The victory – Crockett's twelfth straight – came in the form of an 18-hit offensive attack and another masterful pitching performance by senior Carter Winders, who wasn't too shabby with the bat, either.

Winders went 5-for-5 at the plate with a double and four singles, driving in three runs as the Cavs knocked off the Choctaws for the second consecutive night. But this one was a far cry from the nail-biting classic played Monday night in Alamo, when George Randall's bases-loaded drive over outfielder Landon Daniels' head ended a 6-5 back-and-forth thriller.

Tuesday night, Crockett – ranked third in that same TBCA poll – jumped on its hosts quickly with a four-run first inning, ignited by a Nash Kilburn double, a walk to Brady Fronabarger, and another double by Winders. Following a walk to Landry Fronabarger, Aiden Austin brought home the second run with a groundout and then Randall walked to load the bases. Mason Ray walked to force in a run and Austin scored on a wild pitch to give the Cavs a 4-0 edge before Winders – who had yet to give up an earned run this season – even took the mound.

And while that zero was eventually erased in the bottom of the fifth when Winders wild pitched a Choctaw runner home after a single and two groundouts, he still went the seven-inning distance, scattering five hits and striking out nine, needing just 82 pitches to do so. A staggering 61 of them were strikes.

In the meantime, Crockett added a run in the third and then seven more over the final two frames. Randall singled and Sam Proctor yanked a triple to left to account for the third-inning tally. The three-run sixth was highlighted by a two-RBI double from the red-hot Randall, and the four-run seventh included a two-run single by Winders and a sacrifice fly by Carson Webb.

Supporting Winders five-hit night were Randall's three-hit effort and two safeties apiece from Kilburn, both Fronabargers, and Callan Willis. Winders' five hits matched the entire Choctaw output for the night.

Smith's 15-2 club will now participate over the next several days in a tournament in Union City, beginning with a 4:30 p.m. clash Wednesday against the host Golden Tornadoes.



**Above:** George Randall stayed red-hot with three more hits and two RBIs in helped down the Choctaws for the second straight night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**SOFTBALL:** Kiyra Liggins swung the loudest bat Tuesday night as the Lady Cavaliers resumed district play at Dyersburg and trounced the host Lady Trojans 17-5.

Liggins doubled home a run in Crockett's four-run first inning, blasted a three-run homer in the second, and singled in another tally in the fifth when the Lady Cavs scored seven times to invoke the "mercy rule." Liggins – whose home run was her first of the season – had a five-RBI night for the winners and also scored three runs herself. Haley Leforgee chased three runs home with a pair of doubles in the game as Coach Baron Jimmerson's club improved their season record to 17-3. Madison Stitts and Gabby Bursey also had two hits apiece, while Bursey and Nataly Amador also scored three times each.

Maddie Haynes added a run-scoring single in the first; Wesley Thornton collected a sacrifice fly in the third; and Emilee Chandler drove in a run with a groundout and Stitts doubled home a tally in the fifth. All other Lady Cav runs were the result of seven Dyersburg errors in the sloppily-played game – Crockett made five miscues as well.

Anna Stallings was the winning pitcher, going the first four innings and allowing two earned runs (five overall). Emmalynn Medlin had a scoreless frame of relief.

Crockett next takes on Dyer County on Thursday evening at 5:30 in Newbern.



**Left:** Kiyra Liggins had a big night for Crockett's softballers, driving home five runs in a 17-5 road pounding of Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Sam Proctor tripled in a run for the victorious Cavaliers, who are now 15-2. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER:** Luke Carter and Adrian Calderon scored goals and the Crockett defense made them stand up as the Cavaliers defeated visiting Chester County Tuesday night in Alamo. Despite both teams having seven shots on goal in the opening half, the match was scoreless at halftime. But at 35:32 in the second period, Carter scored off an assist from Braulio Marquez.

A Crockett player received a red card three minutes later, leaving the Cavaliers down a man as the Eagles capitalized. After being awarded a penalty kick after a foul in the box, Chester County converted it successfully to tie the game at 1-1 with 25 minutes to play.

But less than a minute later, Calderon netted the game-winner off a beautiful assist from Aiden Markgraf at 24:18, and the Cavs were able to run out the clock from there. Noah Mayfield had nine saves for Crockett, allowing only the one penalty kick goal.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER:** The CCMS soccer team continued its dominant season Monday night with a 9-0 conquest of Decatur County, controlling play so completely that the visitors did not even get a shot on goal.

The Middle School Cavs accumulated 25 shots on target, with nine making their way into the net. Easten Stephens opened the scoring at the 20:53 mark and tallied again at 17:04 on an assist from Brendan Green. Lucas Morales took a pass from Gabe Williams and netted it at 13:15. Caleb Ferguson scored at 10:58 before another tally by Morales at 9:18. A Damian Marquez goal at 6:06 gave CCMS a 6-0 advantage at the halftime intermission.

It took Crockett just four-and-a-half minutes into the second half to reach the nine-goal margin that triggers the "mercy rule." Morales drilled his third goal of the night at 28:48; Green scored at 27:19; and Morales ended the contest at 25:30 with his fourth successful shot. CCMS hosts Paris Inman Middle School on Thursday.



**Above:** Luke Carter (1) netted a goal as the Cavalier soccer team held off Chester County 2-1 Tuesday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)