

CAV DIAMONDERS SWEEP CLARK OPPONENTS; PREPARE FOR DYER COUNTY MONDAY



Above: Brady Fronabarger had a big offensive day against Collinsville (IL), banging out three hits, driving in two runs, and stealing two bases. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Crockett County's mercy-rule streak has ended – but the winning has not.

The Cavalier baseball team had won an astounding seven consecutive games by the run-rule – being so far ahead that a game is ended prematurely – heading into Saturday's clash with Collinsville (IL) at the Phil Clark Memorial Classic at USA Stadium in Millington. While the Cavs couldn't make it eight in a row, they still won their tenth straight contest with a 10-4 decision over the Kahoks.

Saturday's triumph was the third in a row over Illinois teams for Coach Brad Smith's club at the Millington event and improved the Cavs' season record to 13-2. And after downing the Kahoks (a fictional tribe name selected to represent the indigenous history of the Collinsville area), Crockett now turns its attention back to local district play, preparing for a two-night engagement with powerful Dyer County Monday and Tuesday.

Cav senior first baseman Brady Fronabarger was the major cog in the Crockett offensive machine Saturday, banging out two singles and a double, driving in two runs, and stealing a couple of bases, in addition to drawing a walk. Outfielder Nash Kilburn provided a single, triple, and walk for two RBIs and also stole two bases for Crockett, which scored eight runs in the top of the first and coasted to the victory from there.

Callan Willis got the uprising started with a leadoff single to center, advancing to second on Kilburn's single. Fronabarger made it three in a row to load the bases before Carter Winders followed suit with another hit to right, bringing home the first tally.

A Landry Fronabarger groundout made it 2-0 before the bases reloaded when Aiden Austin was hit by a pitch. A fielder's choice grounder from George Randall sent not only one run home, but also a hustling Brody Parlow, who was in as a courtesy runner for catcher Winders.

A single by Mason Ray and a walk to Sam Proctor loaded the sacks yet again, and Willis drew a walk to force in the fifth tally. A shortstop error on a Kilburn grounder made it 6-0 before Brady Fronabarger capped the rally with a two-run double to center. Crockett wouldn't score again until the top of the seventh, when Kilburn belted a two-run triple to center. In the meantime, Cav pitchers Jameson Bushart (one inning), Ray (five), and Willis (one) combined to limit the Kahoks to two earned runs and four overall, yielding just six hits.

Ray's stint earned him the victory, and he also collected two of Crockett's 10 hits.

Monday's game with Dyer County is in Alamo, set for a 7 p.m. start. The Choctaws have been ranked as high as second in the state in Class AAA, although they split their first district doubleheader of the season with Dyersburg earlier this week. Tuesday's contest will be in Newbern.

SOFTBALL: Piper Smith drew a walk, took second on a Macie Teel groundout, and then scored on an infield error in the fourth inning to break a 2-2 tie and provide the decisive run in a 4-2 Lady Cavalier triumph over Bedford (IN) North Lawrence at the Southern Warrior Classic in Murfreesboro Saturday.

Smith's run, along with a subsequent bases-loaded fielder's choice groundout from Kiyra Liggins in the sixth, made a winner out of Crockett senior pitcher Anna Stallings, who rebounded from a tough Friday outing in the Warriors event. Stallings went all seven frames, stopping the Stars on five hits, walking only one, and striking out seven to improve to 8-1 for the season.

Haley Leforgee drove in a first-inning run with a groundout and Teel doubled home Smith (who had walked) in the second to produce the Lady Cavs' other tallies. Teel and Nataly Amador each had two of Crockett's six hits for Coach Baron Jimmerson's crew.

In their second game of the day Saturday, Crockett fell to Blackman 7-1. The Murfreesboro school outhit the Lady Cavs 12-3, scored six runs in the first three innings, and rolled from there. Nataly Amador had two of the Crockett hits, with Gabby Bursey notching the other safety. Emmalynn Medlin took the pitching loss.

The Lady Cavs play two more games Sunday in the event, facing Benet Academy at 10 a.m. and Batavia at noon. Jimmerson's club is now 14-3 on the season.

COLE CONTINUES TO RAKE: Sometimes in sports, a broadcaster or writer will use the term "video-game numbers" to highlight someone who's consistently putting up unbelievable performances. Former CCHS catcher Lynden Cole seems to have both hands locked on a controller right now.

The University of Arkansas-Rich Mountain (UARM) sophomore backstop has played 30 games for the Lady Bucks this spring and has blasted 13 home runs and driven in 45 while compiling an otherworldly batting average (for the college level) of .495. "Lou" has an on-base percentage of .560 and a slugging percentage (total bases divided by official at-bats) of 1.044. For reference, that number is twice as high as the team average.

In a Friday game against Arkansas State-Three Rivers, Cole homered twice and added a double and a sacrifice fly in a 15-5 victory. In a Saturday doubleheader split with National Park College, Cole had three hits and caught all 12 frames of the extra-inning opening loss and then belted three more hits – two of them home runs – to spark her team's win in the nightcap, catching another seven innings.

UARM is 23-9 on the season. Cole has 23 extra-base hits in 91 official at-bats, along with 45 hits overall.



Above: Mason Ray contributed a solid five-inning relief stint to get the win and helped his own cause with two hits. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Macie Teel had two hits and drove in a run as Crockett's softballers defeated Bedford (IN) North Lawrence Saturday in Murfreesboro. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Anna Stallings (left) pitched a seven-inning gem for the Lady Cavs to defeat Bedford; her catcher from this photo is Lynden Cole (right), currently ripping the cover off the ball as a college sophomore at UARM. (Photo by Ron Barry)

