23RD STRAIGHT WIN SETS THE STAGE FOR MONDAY SHOWDOWN WITH SOUTH GIBSON



Above: George Randall hammered an opposite-field, two-run triple to cap a 10-run rally in the third inning as Crockett defeated Lakeland Prep 18-7 Friday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

The preliminaries have been nice, but it's now time for the main event.

It will take place Monday night at 7:00 in Medina, when South Gibson County's Hornets (15-6) will host the Crockett County Cavaliers (26-2) in the first game of a two-night doubleheader for the regular season district championship and the top seed for the post-season tournament.

Crockett currently holds a one-game edge over the Hornets, who split a twin bill with Dyer County earlier this season. The Cavaliers, meanwhile, are unbeaten in district play and only have the two remaining contests with South Gibson to determine the final seeding. Coach Brad Smith's club only needs to split the doubleheader to be the #1 seed, but settling for a split may not satisfy a team that just won its 23rd consecutive matchup Friday night, downing Lakeland Prep 18-7 on the road.

Fueling the pre-game hype for Monday is the memory of the last time Crockett and South Gibson met. It came in last year's district tournament, and it was a classic contest in every sense of the word. The two clubs battled through 10 scoreless innings of terrific baseball before the Hornets' Tommy Baker launched an 11th-inning walk-off homer to end the Cavaliers' season.

While South Gibson has again posted a solid season thus far, it is the Crockett squad that has exceeded all forecasts and expectations in 2026. And on Friday night – when the Hornets were dropping a 6-5 decision to Chester County – the Cavs were rolling to another run-rule victory in Lakeland, using the power of "three" in taking down their hosts in five innings.

Callan Willis and George Randall had three hits each; Randall and Nash Kilburn drove in three runs apiece; Kilburn and Aiden Austin both scored three runs. Mason Ray earned a three-inning save. And the Cavs had three extra-base hits and stole three bases, and also scored three times in the second and fifth frames.

Oh – and in the third inning – Smith's crew hammered LPS with a 10-spot on the scoreboard. The biggest hit of the rally? A two-run triple by Randall – on an 0-2 count, the third pitch of the at-bat – that made the score 13-3.

The Lions became one of the few teams to keep Crockett from scoring in the opening frame, and then pushed across a couple of tallies themselves against Cav starter Ryland Redding for a 2-0 lead. But the Cavs quickly erased it with their three-run second when Austin scored on an error, Willis doubled in a run, and Kilburn singled Willis home.

Redding worked out of a bases-loaded, one-out jam in the bottom of the inning with only a sacrifice fly doing damage, so the teams were tied at 3-3 heading into the Cav third.

Carter Winders reached second on an error and scored on a single by Landry Fronabarger. Austin and Randall followed with singles to make it 5-3. Ray singled to load the sacks and Sam Proctor drew a walk – one of 11 issed by LPS pitchers – to force in a run. Willis singled in another tally, and Kilburn then crushed a two-run double to center for a 9-3 advantage.

A groundout by Brady Fronabarger made it 10-3 and another groundout by Landry Fronabarger also brought home a run. Randall's triple capped the uprising.

In the fourth, Brady singled in another run and Kilburn scored on a wild pitch. In the fifth, Brody Parlow picked up an RBI on a sac fly and Winders was hit by a bases-loaded pitch to force in a run. Jaxon Moore drew a walk to bring in the 18th and final Crockett tally. Lakeland scored four times in the bottom of the fifth, but it wasn't enough to overcome the run-rule margin.

SOFTBALL: Another pitching masterpiece from senior Anna Stallings has Crockett County in a very good place after its first two pool games in the Alabama Bash tournament in Florence Friday night.
Stallings tossed her second straight five-inning, one-hit shutout of this week as the Lady Cavaliers defeated Alexandria Valley 3-0 to be 2-0 on the night, having slipped past the Brooks Lions 5-4 earlier in their opener. They will now face Athens at 11 a.m. Saturday to determine their final seeding for the bracket play portion of the event.

Stallings struck out five to offset three walks in blanking the Lady Cubs, allowing only one hit. Her teammates produced a single run in each of the first three innings, and the Christian Brothers University-bound senior hurler made them stand up.

The Lady Cavs scored in the first frame on a throw to first after a dropped third strike allowed Gabby Bursey to race home from third. In the second inning, Emilee Chandler led off with a double, took third on a sacrifice bunt, and scored on a single by Macie Teel. A Fallon Beaird groundout in the third chased home Kiyra Liggins, who had doubled.

Teel was 2-for-2 in the win, joining Liggins as the only Lady Cavs with multiple hits.

Crockett edged Brooks in its first game when Maddie Haynes, pinch-hitting with the bases loaded in the bottom of the fifth in a 4-4 game, grounded into a fielder's choice at third that allowed Haley Leforgee to score the winning run in a walk-off. Madison Stitts had been hit by a pitch to force in the tying run just before Haynes produced the game-winner.

Strangely – with only the tying run on third and one out in the inning – Brooks decided to intentionally walk Leforgee and Chandler to load the bases, rather than concentrating on getting the batter out. The strategy obviously backfired when Stitts was hit by a pitch on a 3-1 count.

Bursey and Nataly Amador each had two hits for Crockett, which committed four errors in the contest, allowing three of the four Brooks runs to be unearned against Lady Cav winning pitcher Emmalynn Medlin.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: CCMS completed an undefeated regular season with an 11-0 record by edging Northeast 1-0 on Eighth Grade Night in Alamo.

Damian Marquez netted the game's only goal at the 23:03 mark of the first half on an assist from Caleb Ferguson and Cavalier goalkeepers Henry Mayfield (three saves) and Andy Aguirre (two saves) made it hold up. Crockett coaches gave special salutes to backfield defenders Landon Meeks, Pedro Aguirre, Adrian Amador, Gael Carrasco, and Aaron Haliburton for their goal-prevention efforts throughout the contest.

"It was a hard-fought, back-and-forth game," said assistant coach Graham Mayfield. "Not many shots on goal for either team. Our defense did an amazing job keeping the ball out of the net. Our entire team gave great effort for a full 60 minutes."

The victory gives the Cavs the #1 seed for the West Tennessee Middle School Soccer Association regional tournament and the right to host a first-round match, which will take place on Monday, April 27 at 6 p.m.



Above: Nash Kilburn drove in three runs and scored three times himself as the Cavaliers won their 23rd consecutive game Friday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Aiden Austin was on base three times in the contest and scored all three times, helping Crockett improve to 26-2 on the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Anna Stallings twirled her second straight one-hit shutout Friday night to help the Lady Cavs go 2-0 on the opening night of the Alabama Bash Tournament in Florence. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: A Maddie Haynes walk-off fielder's choice with the bases loaded in the bottom of the fifth gave Crockett a 5-4 win in their opening game with Brooks. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: These 17 eighth-graders celebrated their final regular-season game with a 1-0 win over Northeast, completing an 11-0 undefeated spring. (Photo by Beth Williams)