STALLINGS ONE-HITS OBION COUNTY; DAVIDSON QUALIFIES FOR TSSAA STATE PENTATHLON



Above: After fielding a one-hop shot up the middle, Anna Stallings calmly prepares to throw the Obion runner out at first base. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Maybe when there's only just a little bit of buzzing, it's best not to stir the hornets' nest.

Wednesday evening in Alamo, Crockett County's softball team was methodically disposing of Obion County 6-0 through three innings when a Lady Rebel coach called timeout, apparently to complain to the umpires that the Lady Cavaliers were employing some type of artificial noisemakers in the dugout, which were affecting his girls' concentration.

While there were a couple of Lady Cavaliers who had a pair of drumsticks in their hands, they were merely clacking them together – not beating on any object – and the noise was barely audible. But the umpire made the Crockett team put them away.
If only the complaining coach had known what he was about to unleash…

Artificial noisemakers are prohibited, so you say? Well, how about the natural kind of noise?

If you've been around the game of softball at all, you've noticed that every team has some sort of singing, chanting, cheering, and so forth. It's just a part of the game. A couple of extra drumsticks – used only against each other – is like background noise in a grocery store.

But tell a team of high school girls they can't do it? Let's just say this: Crockett County boasts one of the finest collection of leather-lunged young ladies in West Tennessee.

The Lady Cavalier dugout went from the level of a gentle breeze blowing through tree leaves to an army of jackhammers trying to drown out a Def Leppard concert. Keep the noise natural? No problem, Mr. Blue.

Crockett's ladies starting cheering for their teammates so loudly, consistently, and even exponentially, that they might as well have had Lady Gaga at one end of the dugout, Beyoncé at the other, and Joan Jett, Brandi Carlile, Bonnie Raitt, Lauren Daigle, Christina Aguilera, Pink, Mariah Carey, and the Broadway casts of Wicked and Cats in between. With Coach Baron Jimmerson fighting back a smile for the way his Lady Cavs responded, the result was a six-run uprising that put the game away and gave Crockett a 12-0 triumph and a one-hit shutout by senior pitcher Anna Stallings.

In that fourth-inning rally, Macie Teel led off with a single to center and courtesy runner Fallon Beaird took second when Wesley Thornton smoked a hard line drive that the Lady Rebel third baseman couldn't handle. After Beaird stole third and Thornton swiped second, Nataly Amador sliced a single to left that was then misplayed in the outfield as both Beaird and Thornton scored.

Amador then tallied on a hard single to left by Kiyra Liggins as the score increased to 9-0 and the Crockett noise level was approaching earthquake status. After a groundout, Liggins scored on another third base error and Piper Smith capped the rally with a two-RBI single.

Stallings – now 12-2 on the season – was masterful throughout, striking out seven, issuing no walks, and lowering her season ERA to 1.93.

Amador and Gabby Bursey singled in runs for the Lady Cavs in the first inning and Teel and Thornton did the same in the second. Emilee Chandler's third-frame sacrifice fly brought in the other Crockett run.

Now 22-4, Crockett will travel to compete in the Alabama Bash this weekend, beginning with a 9:00 game Friday night against Mortimer Jordan High School of Kimberly, AL.

TRACK & FIELD: In an official high school track meet, an individual is usually limited to four events. That's just not enough for someone as versatile as Addie Davidson.

So – for the first time – the multi-talented Crockett trickster took a stab at the one-day, five-event pentathlon, making her debut at the West Sectional at Lakeland Prep. The top two finishers would earn berths in the TSSAA State Championships.

The five events are the long jump and 100-meter hurdles – for which Davidson holds both school records for CCHS – and the high jump, the shot put, and the 800-meter run. Davidson has not competed in those three previously.

And while she didn't win any of the individual events at the Sectional, she placed consistently strongly in all of them – the key to a successful pentathlon performance. As a result, Davidson was second overall and will represent Crockett at the State.

Davidson said she surprised herself in the three events that were new to her.
"I don't feel like I'm a good jumper," she said, "but I cleared 4-2 in the high jump. I've only practiced the shot put for two weeks, but I finished second in it. And my running background has always been in sprints, but I did the 800 in 2:52. So I have to feel good about the way the day went. I knew I'd do okay in the hurdles and the long jump, but the others were nice surprises."

Coach Julie Nass was ecstatic with Davidson's performance.
"She's just an athlete – that's all there is to it," Nass said. "When we first started thinking about Addie doing this, I was a little apprehensive about the shot put and the 800. But she's strong, and she handled the shot well. The 800 isn't easy when you've only done sprints before, but Addie competes. And that's what it takes in this kind of challenge."

Davidson joins former Lady Cavalier trackster Joy Evans as a State Pentathlon qualifier.
"Addie's already broken six school records," Nass laughed. "We'll see if she can get a seventh."

The State Pentathlon will be held at Hardin Valley Academy in Knoxville on May 13.



Above: Crockett's fourth-inning rally was fueled by the cheering from the dugout, after players were told there couldn't be any artificial noisemakers. Providing high-decibel "natural" tones here are (left to right) Maddie Haynes, Syesha Torres, Mae Parker, and Nataly Amador. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Macie Teel sheds her bat and takes off for first base after collecting her second hit of Wednesday's win over Obion. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Wesley Thornton, who contributed a big two-run single in the second, pauses during an Obion pitching conference to enjoy a snack of her batting glove. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Fallon Beaird scored twice as a courtesy runner for catcher Macie Teel and here prepares to steal third base on the ensuing pitch. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Piper Smith lined this two-RBI single to cap the Crockett scoring in the fourth inning. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Versatile Addie Davidson -- excelling in the ultimate test of versatility -- qualified for the TSSAA State Pentathlon Championship Wednesday at Lakeland Prep. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Davidson is a natural in hurdles and the long jump, but had to learn three new events to earn her State berth in Knoxville in May. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Madison Stitts had two hits and barreled up this pitch during the six-run uprising in the fourth. (Photo by Ron Barry)



