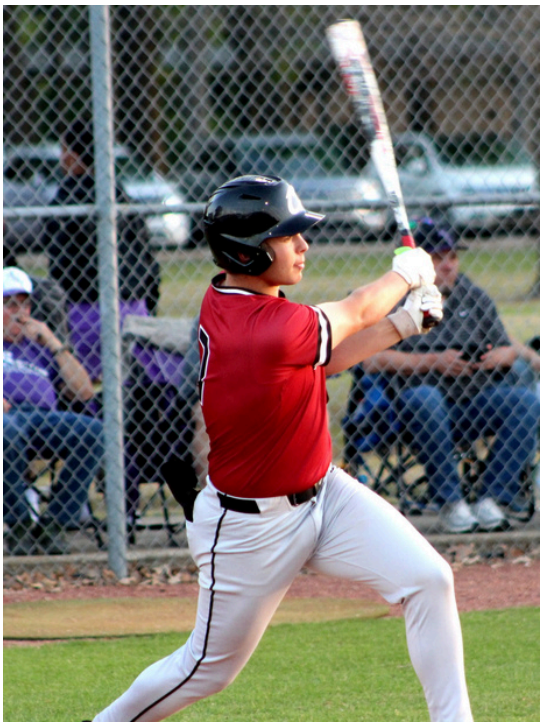
CAVALIER DIAMONDERS DOWN MILAN 15-5 FOR NINETEENTH CONSECUTIVE WIN



Above: Brady Fronabarger has now reached base in his last 15 trips to the plate, stretching over Crockett's four most recent games. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Crockett County seniors Callan Willis and Brady Fronabarger have done a lot of things together in the course of their academic and athletic endeavors.

They can finish each other's sentences. They can give each other a look, and something is successfully communicated. So it shouldn't be surprising now that – after 24 games of their final Cavalier baseball season together – they're locked into a statistical oddity.

Following Friday's 15-5 run-rule pounding of host Milan, which boosted Crockett's record to an incredible 22-2 and was the club's nineteenth straight victory, it's interesting to note…

Willis, the leadoff man, has exactly 100 official plate appearances this spring. Fronabarger, who hits third in the powerful Cav lineup, also has 100 official plate appearances. Willis, with 18 walks and two hit-by-pitches, has been on base 20 extra times without having to hit his way on. So has Fronabarger, with 13 walks and seven hit-by-pitches.

Willis has 41 hits; so does Fronabarger. Fronabarger is batting .513 (41-for-80); so is Willis. Willis has an on-base percentage of .610 (61-for-100); so does Fronabarger. They've each struck out only eight times. Willis has scored one more run (43 to 42); Fronabarger has a few more total bases (70-66). Willis has 15 extra-base hits (10 doubles, a triple, and four home runs); Fronabarger has 14 (seven doubles and seven home runs).

And when grouped with their current assortment of distinguished teammates, it's no wonder that Coach Brad Smith has assembled a unit that has been wreaking havoc with their opponents.

Crockett has 10 guys currently hitting over .300, and the TEAM batting average is .395. There are 12 players getting on base at better than a 40% clip. Six Cavs have already driven in more than 20 runs in the first 24 games, led by Carter Winders with a mind-blowing 52. And Crockett hasn't just been slugging the baseball (although .585 is impressive by any standard) – the Cavs have also stolen 77 bases to their opponents' 11.

So in some ways, when Willis led off Friday's contest at Milan with a double to the left-centerfield gap, it seemed like the game was over – especially after he scored on a wild pitch during a walk to Fronabarger. To the host Bulldogs' credit, they never rolled over, giving up without a fight. But the outcome seemed obvious.

Smith's crew went on to score six times in the top of the first, with Winders delivering a run-scoring single, Aiden Austin patiently drawing a bases-loaded walk, George Randall plating a run with a groundout, and Sam Proctor sending another home with a sizzling double down the left-field line.

Milan battled back with two in its half of the first against Cav freshman Rylan Redding, but Crockett quickly wiped those out by tallying five more times in the second. Consecutive singles by Nash Kilburn, Fronabarger, and Winders – combined with an outfield error on the latter – brought the first two runs home. Courtesy runner Brody Parlow smartly tagged up from second on a long fly out by Landry Fronabarger, further unsettling Milan's pitcher, who then hit Austin and Randall to load the bases. Mason Ray followed with a sacrifice fly, and after Proctor was plunked by yet another errant pitch, Willis smashed a two-run single to center. Crockett led 11-2, and Redding – regaining his command after the shaky start – retired the Bulldogs on just four pitches in the bottom of the frame. Two outstanding defensive plays at third by Randall – one in each of the first two innings – helped limit Milan's scoring.

Landry Fronabarger singled home a run in the third, and Willis, Brady Fronabarger, and Jaxon Moore each singled in tallies in the fourth for the final Crockett runs.

Willis and Winders each had three hits and Brady Fronabarger scored four times to headline the Cavalier offense. Redding went the first three innings to claim the pitching victory, with Randall finishing up in relief for the final two frames.

The Cavs will return to regular-season district action Monday night, hosting Haywood at 7:00 and then traveling to Brownsville Tuesday at 6:30 for the rematch.

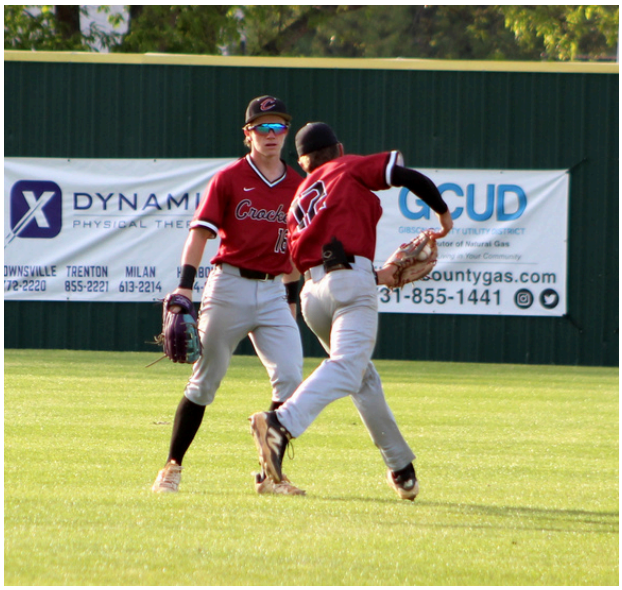
MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: Caleb Ferguson scored a goal with just 12 minutes left off an assist from Easten Stephens to break a deadlock and give the unbeaten CCMS Cavaliers a 2-1 triumph over Northeast Friday.

Crockett, now 9-0, got on the scoreboard first with 23:50 left in the opening half when Damian Marquez took an assist pass from Adrian Amador and fired it into the net. Northeast answered at the 17-minute mark and the teams remained tied until Ferguson's late score in the second half.

Cavalier goalkeeper Henry Mayfield made six saves in the contest, aided by a strong effort from the CCMS defensive backers during the back-and-forth battle. Crockett took 11 shots on goal during the match.

Below: Milan pitchers hit Crockett batters five times Friday, and it would have been six if not for the fancy footwork of Cav senior Carter Winders, who managed to get out of the way on this errant toss. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Second baseman Aiden Austin made this running catch of a pop fly just in front of right fielder Nash Kilburn. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Sam Proctor celebrates his run-scoring double that capped Crockett's six-run first inning Friday at Milan. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Callan Willis was 3-for-4 with three RBIs in continuing to display his "on-base machine" status during his Cav senior season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Nash Kilburn continues to rake from the #2 spot in the batting order, ripping this single to right Friday against the Bulldogs. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Freshman Rylan Redding went the first three innings for the Cavs on the hill, gaining the victory as Crockett improved to 22-2 on the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Sophomore George Randall made two outstanding, diving defensive plays at third base and also added a run-scoring hit and two effective innings of relief pitching Friday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

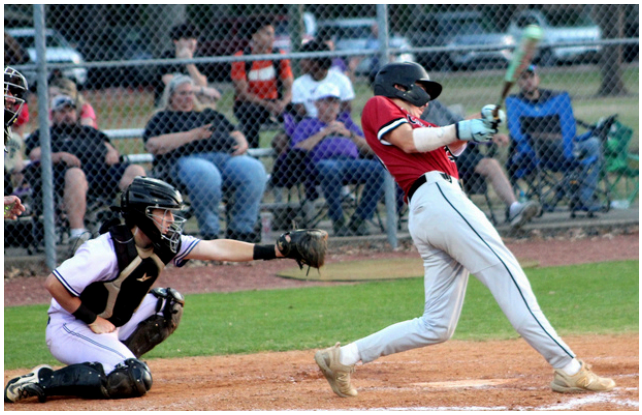




Above: Mason Ray delivered a run-scoring hit during the 15-5 conquest of Milan Friday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Sophomore Landry Fronabarger has been hot recently out of the #5 spot in the batting order. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Karson Kail ripped a double with this swing in Friday's rout of Milan. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Sam Proctor slides across home plate to tally another Cavalier run ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: ... and then quickly looks around to see where everybody else is, as he appears relatively alone for the moment. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Far Right: Senior Jaxon Moore celebrates his second straight game with a successful pinch-hit single as the Cavalier bench eggs him on. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Catcher Luke Beaird confers with relief pitcher George Randall to align their thoughts during Friday's win over the Bulldogs. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: The scoreboard tells the story as Brady Fronabarger gathered in the final out Friday on a pop fly at first base, and Crockett had its nineteenth straight win. (Photo by Ron Barry)







Right: Carter Winders -- in addition to accumulating his incredible offensive statistics -- has used his rifle arm to be a defensive deterrent to opposing baserunners. (Photo by Ron Barry)



