CAVALIERS BEGIN 2026 FOOTBALL SEASON WITH A 10-TOUCHDOWN, 68-0 ANNIHILATION



Above: On Crockett's third play from scrimmage -- and his second carry -- DK Woods broke loose for 32 yards and the game's first touchdown. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Twenty years from now, when Nashville Collegiate Prep is celebrating its 2046 TSSAA Football State Championship, an emotional coach will begin telling the story, "We've come a long way since this school's first official varsity game. Did you know that we actually lost our very first game 68-0?!!!"

Ah, but that's 2046. Today is the morning after, 2026. And that 68-0 outcome is on the minds of all Crockett County fans, because they're the ones who had to cringe their way through it.

If you weren't there at Cavalier Stadium, that '68' is not a misprint. The Cavaliers scored 10 touchdowns against the newly-formed Lions… WITH a running clock that started in the second quarter… WITH virtually everyone suited up for the home team entering the game at some point.

In hindsight, these two teams shouldn't have been playing each other. It only came about when Memphis Middle College dropped Crockett from its schedule. The Cavs needed a new opening opponent, and the Nashville school was looking for games to construct its first-ever campaign.

"It wasn't ideal," Coach Kevin Ward said afterward. "We didn't really know what to expect. But we both needed a game, and the date worked for both of us. At least it gave us the opportunity to get playing time for a lot of guys, which should be helpful later on. We got to see some things we liked, and others we need to fix and get better. So we'll move on from here."

Ward especially praised his team's kickoff coverage – and yes, there were a lot of them. But even with the constant personnel changes and substitutions, NCP never gained more as many as 20 yards on a single return. That had been a weakness of last year's Cavalier squad, and Ward said his staff has been working hard to keep the coverage team from overrunning the returner.
Crockett scored in almost every imaginable way. Four different runners tallied, as did three different pass receivers. The Cavs returned both a fumble and an interception for touchdowns as well. Defensively, the hosts held the Lions to 27 yards gained on 33 offensive plays, so no complaints could be found there. But Ward also knows his troops will be tested much more severely by future opponents.

With that in mind, we'll let the game statistics and the picture captions tell the story. There's really not a lot else to say as Crockett prepares to host Ripley this coming week.



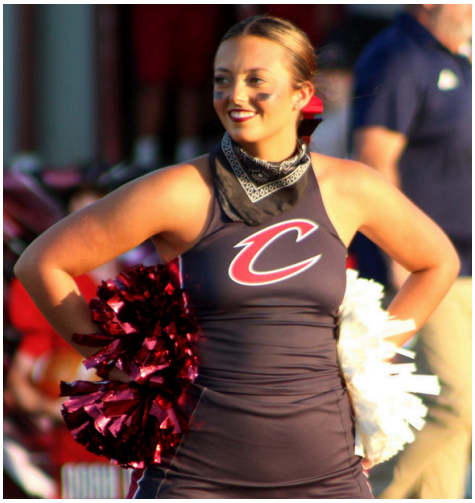
Above: Kris Phillips hauled in a 20-yard scoring pass from Ben Burgess to make it 13-0 with 8:10 still left in the first quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Carson Bridger (79) and Brody Jones (11) were among those making it tough for NCP to find any running room. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Friday, August 21
Game Statistics: Crockett 68, Nashville Collegiate Prep 0
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 17-222; NCP 33-27.
First Downs: CC 5; NCP 2.
Penalties-Yards: CC 4-40; NCP 9-50.
Punts-Yards-Avg: CC none; NCP 3-62-20.7.
Fumbles-Lost: CC 0-0; NCP 3-3.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): Messiah McCurry 4-54 (1 TD), Chris Vance 2-48 (1 TD), DK Woods 3-39 (2 TDs), Khalan Thomas 2-28 (1 TD), Jeremiah Young 1-14, Roman Barker 1-0, Team 13-183 (5 TDs). NCP Rushing: Isaiah Grady 8-21, Ronnie Fox 7-10, Kylan Talley 3-1, Darion Preko 2-(-3), Trey Thompson 4- (-17), Team 24-12.
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 4-4-39-0 (3 TDs). NCP Passing: Thompson 3-7-10-1, Preko 2-2-5-0, Team 5-9-15-1.
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Kris Phillips 1-20 (1 TD), Titus Luten 1-11 (1 TD), Ian Greenberg 1-5 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 1-3. NCP Receiving: Fox 3-11, Masen Johnson 1-3, Demario McBride 1-1.
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Ian Greenberg 1-58 (1 TD). NCP Pass Interceptions: None.
CC Fumble Recoveries: Nolen Turner 1-16 (1 TD), Rylan Redding 1-0, Peter Bosco 1-0, Team 3-16 (1 TD). NCP Fumble Recoveries: none.
CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): None. NCP Kickoff Returns: Kaleb Thurman 4-56, Grady 3-26, Darryl Starks 1-18, Fox 1-15, Team 9-115.
CC Punt Returns: Squirt Pickens 3-43. NCP Punt Returns: None.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): DK Woods 2-0-0-0-12, Ian Greenberg 2-0-0-0-12, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-8-8, Kris Phillips 1-0-0-0-6, Titus Luten 1-0-0-0-6, Khalan Thomas 1-0-0-0-6, Chris Vance 1-0-0-0-6, Messiah McCurry 1-0-0-0-6, Nolen Turner 1-0-0-0-6, Team 10-0-0-8-68. NCP Scoring: none.

The Linescore:
NCP 0 0 0 0 - 0
CC 34 21 7 6 - 68
Crockett – DK Woods 32 run (kick failed)
Crockett – Kris Phillips 20 pass from Ben Burgess (Noah Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Woods 2 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Titus Luten 11 pass from Burgess (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Ian Greenberg 58 interception return (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Nolen Turner 16 fumble return (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Greenberg 5 pass from Burgess (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Khalan Thomas 10 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Chris Vance 23 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Messiah McCurry 1 run (kick failed)



Left: Senior Kaylei Porter was ready to have her cheerleading squad debut in style. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: After DK Woods had scored his second touchdown by bulling over a tackler from two yards out, Crockett's Rylan Redding (18) recovered a fumble on the ensuing kickoff and was congratulated by Peter Bosco (26) and Carson Williams (24). (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Two plays later, Titus Luten made this impressive touchdown catch on another throw from Ben Burgess, and Crockett led 27-0. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Brody Jones intercepted a third-down pass on the next possession, but his theft was negated by a roughing the passer penalty. Instead, the Cavs' Ian Greenberg (2) stepped in front of the intended Lion receiver on this play ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... and took it 48 yards to the house. With Noah Mayfield's extra point, Greenberg's TD gave Crockett a 34-point opening quarter. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: On the very first play of the second period, Crockett's Khalan Thomas (20) sacked NCP quarterback Trey Thompson and forced another fumble, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... which was promptly scooped up by Nolen Turner (54), who zipped it into the end zone and built the Cavalier lead to 41-0. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Below: By this time, Crockett cheerleaders Addie Hoover (left) and Makayla Murphy may have started wondering if it was proper to continue urging their players to keep it rolling. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Khalan Thomas (20) and Chris Vance (15) scored the next two Crockett touchdowns -- Thomas on a 10-yard run to close the first half, and Vance on a 23-yard scamper in the third quarter --but those efforts couldn't quite overshadow what happened on the field at halftime. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Ben Burgess only threw four passes in the ballgame. All four were completed, and three went for touchdowns, including this five-yarder to Ian Greenberg that made it 48-0. There were still five minutes left before the half. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: By this time in the contest, Crockett defenders Dontavious Forrest (33) and Brody Jones (11) had made their presence felt in a big way, teaming for several tackles. (Photo by Ron Barry)



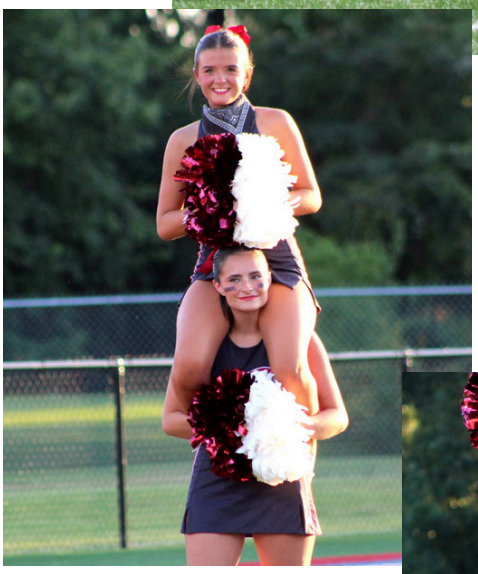
Left: He may have the letter 'L' on his torso, but sophomore baseballer Martin Antunez was a big winner during the intermission. Antunez, kicking barefooted, drilled a 25-yard field goal through the uprights to win a $250 gift card from Sonic Drive-In as part of a new promotion. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett's final scoring opportunity came when Peter Bosco (26) dove on this NCP fumble right before the end of the third period. (Photo by Ron Barry)



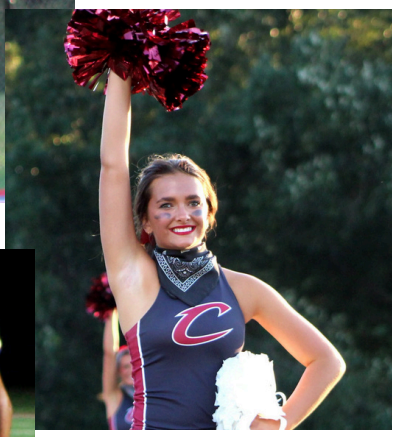


Above: As Crockett's Cavalier Crazies continued celebrating Friday night's 'Blackout" event ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: ... and cheerleaders Allyssa Ward (top) and Lillian Ray continued the encouragement ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: And with that, Cav cheerleader Lexie Beaird was ready to begin concentrating on the upcoming game with Ripley this week. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: ... freshman reserve quarterback Roman Barker (12) handed off to running back Messiah McCurry on three straight plays, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: ... which eventually produced Touchdown #10 on a one-yard run, following this 27-yard gain. (Photo by Ron Barry)

