# LADY CAVALIER VOLLEYBALLERS FALL IN POST-SEASON ATMOSPHERE MATCH



**Above:** This first-set slam by Crockett's Wesley Thornton (20) was an indicator of what was to come from both team's offenses Monday as the Lady Cavaliers took on JCS. (Photo by Ron Barry)

If you're going to be watching volleyball in late August – which, obviously, is still very early in the season for high schoolers – you might as well see two teams which each made the TSSAA State Tournament a year ago in their respective divisions.

Monday night in Alamo, Crockett County hosted Jackson Christian School, and there was definitely a post-season atmosphere and post-season quality of play.

Throughout the vast majority of the contest, the teams were only separated by a point or two on the scoreboard at any given time. The lead was constantly switching hands. Great plays were the norm rather than the exception.

When it was over, the Lady Eagles had escaped with a 3-1 triumph, but not without major resistance from Coach Andrew Laman's Lady Cavaliers.

Both teams entered Monday's duel having competed in extremely tough weekend tournaments in the Memphis area. Crockett managed three wins at the White Station Spartan Showdown, while JCS gained a victory over Desoto Central of Southaven in the Volley in the 'Ville event in Collierville.

The Lady Eagles broke open a 15-12 first set with a late rally for a 25-15 win, but Set #2 quickly became an all-out war between the combatants. The score was tied at 17-17, 19-19, and 23-23 until Crockett's Wesley Thornton hammered a successful kill to put the hosts up 24-23. But JCS rallied again to make it 25-25 and then 26-26 before the Lady Cavs finally broke through for the two straight points that produced a 28-26 triumph.

With the sets now even at 1-1, the third game began to mimic Set #2 early. It was 11-11, then 14-14, then 16-16, and 19-19. Riding the bullet serves of junior Addison Kelley, the visitors tallied the final four points to claim a 25-21 win and put themselves on the brink of a match victory.

Laman's club – getting solid play from veterans Thornton and Madi Collins as well as key contributions from sophomores Emilee Chander and Lola Bailey, as well as freshman Addie Whitby – quickly established a 7-2 advantage in Set #4. That's when JCS front-liners Elliana Cox and freshman Jazlyn Beckham took over, pounding a variety of winners as the Lady Eagles tallied 23 of the final 32 points to win the set 25-16, clinching the match.

Crockett received tremendous efforts from its back row crew of Addie Davidson, Nataly Amador, Carmen Claybrooks, and Jentry Elmore, as well as dependable setter Lakyn Forsythe, but JCS countered with a power-based attack that kept the visitors from ever yielding too many successive points.

The back-and-forth kept the crowd engaged and entertained, and it was a match that should have a positive effect on both teams' pursuits moving forward.

The Lady Cavs, now 6-4, will host Martin Westview Tuesday at 5:00 for a varsity doubleheader: two matches in one night. Crockett will then travel to Milan Thursday evening to battle the Lady Dawgs.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL:** Coach Duke Kail's CCMS diamonders hung a first-inning six-spot on visiting Union City and added runs in the third and fourth frames to gain a 10-0 mercy rule win over the Lady Tornadoes.

Center fielder Evie Davidson collected a double and two singles in three trips to the plate, driving in three runs, to pace Crockett's offensive attack. Winning pitcher Piper Ledford knocked in two runs with a pair of hits and tossed a four-inning no-hitter as well, striking out six. She missed a perfect game by a single batter, who reached on an outfield error in the third.

Abbey McAnulty added a double for the winners, who are now 5-2. Payton Gadlen stole three bases as a courtesy runner in the contest, and Mahaley Hicks contributed a run-scoring hit. CCMS will next play at Lexington Thuesday at 5:30.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER:** South Gibson – scoring six goals in the match's final 19 minutes – defeated CCMS 10-1 Monday after building a 3-0 first-half lead. Lady Cav goalkeeper Kaylee Servin had made 11 saves in the first half when a Lady Hornet shot hit her in the face and bloodied her nose, forcing her to leave the game.

Kalynn Lewis tallied Crockett's lone goal with 25 minutes left to play in the second period, but SGC poured on the offense after that to break the game wide open. The Lady Cavs will play at Hardin County on Thursday.

**HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER:** The game originally schedule for Tuesday at North Side in Jackson has been canceled



**Above:** The second set was an absolute back-and-forth war. Emilee Chandler (4) scored this point for the hosts by quickly tapping a shot into an open space on the Lady Eagle side. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Sophomore Lola Bailey (1) steers a directed shot to just the right spot to keep Crockett's victory hopes alive late in Set #2. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Right:** Setter Lakyn Forsythe tries to keep her crew pumped up as Set #2 gets tied up late for the fourth time. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Crockett had a vocal crowd of students trying hard to help the Lady Cavs pull out a triumph in the long second set. (Photo by Ron Barry)






**Above:** Wesley Thornton accepts congratulations from a teammate after serving the point that finally gave the second set to Crockett, 28-26. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Right:** Jackson Christian quickly countered in Set #3 as junior Addison Kelley began serving bullets to help turn the tide back in her team's favor. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** Jentry Elmore tries to comprehend just how many times a single set can have its score tied over and over again. (Photo by Ron Barry)





**Above:** The power game of JCS hitter Elliana Cox came to the fore at the conclusion of Set #3, helping the Lady Eagles pull away. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Below:** Carmen Claybrooks looks toward the Crockett bench to listen to some coaching advice. (Photo by Ron Barry)



**Below:** JCS also has an outstanding freshman -- Jazlyn Beckham -- who made her power presence felt down the final stretch. (Photo by Ron Barry)






**Lefft:** Crockett kept hanging tough, tying Set #3 several times. After one of those tying points, Addie Davidson (7) celebrates with Addie Whitby and Emilee Chandler (4). (Photo by Ron Barry)




**Below:** Addie Whitby -- only a freshman -- goes high to tip this point to the right spot as Set #4 begins. (Photo by Ron Barry)






**Above:** Madi Collins (6) appears to be dunking a basketball in this shot, but she's merely delivering another kill that kept Set #4 close for awhile before JCS took charge. (Photo by Ron Barry)

**Left**: Lakyn Forsythe and Wesley Thornton -- who can't seem to keep straight faces very often when they're together -- keep each other encouraged even when sets are long and tight. (Photo by Ron Barry)