LATE-ROUND CLAY KAIL BIRDIES SWING GOLF MATCH IN CROCKETT'S FAVOR BY A SINGLE STROKE



Above: Crockett's Clay Kail closed his Thursday round with a pair of birdies that gave the Cav golfers a 163-164 win over Madison Academic. (Photo by Ron Barry)

In a high school golf match, each boys team designates five players as their starters. The top four scores among each team's five are the ones that are counted as the final results for the contest.

The players generally tee off in threesomes – three players to a hole, usually two from one team and one from the other, alternating at each hole. Since the players tee off at different holes, they tend to finish at different times, and therefore nobody ever really knows how the team stands until the last players to finish turn in their scorecards. So it's difficult to assess the pressure any individual player feels, because he doesn't really know how anybody else on his team has performed.

But when your team ends up winning a match by a single stroke – as Crockett County did against Madison Academic on Thursday at the Alamo Golf & Country Club – it's hard not to direct most of the credit toward the guy who birdied his final two holes.

On this day, that would be the Cavaliers' Clay Kail. While his final score of 41 wasn't Crockett's best – that belonged to senior stalwart Jack Shaver, who carded a 38 to tie for the round's medalist honors – it's noteworthy that if Kail hadn't finished as strongly as he did, his team's one-shot victory could have just as easily been a one-shot defeat.

As it turned out, Coach Pate Randall's crew squeaked past the visiting Mustangs 163-164. Supporting Shaver's 38 and Kail's 41 were Max Woods (41), George Randall (43), and Myles Perkins (45).
Madison's Trey Perkins matched Shaver's 38 to tie for medalist honors. Trice Mullens carded a 39 for the Mustangs.

"That was too close for comfort," Coach Randall said afterward. "We didn't have our best, but a win is a win. On a positive note, Madison was a very gracious team and were thankful that I let them bring every JV player they had. A couple of them never have had the chance to ever play in a match, so we were literally helping grow the game of golf today. That's what it's all about."

As tight as the boys match was, the two schools' girls did them one better: they tied, 97-97! (In girls golf, the top two scores are added.) Madison's Nora Manley was low scorer with a 43, but Crockett's Rachel Crossnoe was close behind at 46 and Emmalynn Medlin contributed her best score to date (51) to forge the deadlock.

On Monday, Crockett's teams will be at The Farms in Dyersburg, competing all day in the West Tennessee Invitational. Each member will play 18 holes rather than nine in the event.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL: If you've ever witnessed a 25-23 result in a volleyball set, you know each point was likely a hard-fought conquest, and the players' nerves were on edge throughout.

Now – imagine three of them in a row. That's what Crockett County pulled off at Milan Thursday evening, edging the Lady Dawgs in another classic battle 25-23, 25-23, and 25-23. If ever was a sweep was NOT lopsided, this was it.

The two schools have been engaged in a few five-set thrillers in recent seasons, and this one easily could have gone that way as well. But Coach Andrew Laman's Lady Cavaliers – now 9-4 on the season – received notable solid play from Madi Collins, Wesley Thornton, Lakyn Forsythe, Addie Davidson, and Carmen Claybrooks in managing the razor-then victory. Milan had previous wins over Huntingdon, Dyersburg, and Camden Central.

Crockett will travel to Gibson County on Monday and Dyersburg on Tuesday for its next two matches.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: With barely a minute left in the match, Crockett's Kalynn Lewis took an assist pass from Preslee Bray and hammered in the tying goal as the Lady Cavs salvaged a 2-2 deadlock with Hardin County.

Bray also fed Lewis for the game's first goal at 27:45 of the opening half for a lead that held all the way to the intermission, thanks in large measure to goalkeeper Kaylee Servin's five saves. Forwards Lewis and Paris Robinson dominated play most of the period, but the one goal was all that showed for it.

Hardin County broke through for a pair of goals in the second half at 18:37 and 4:17, with the second looking like it might be the game-winner. But Bray and Lewis teamed up for the equalizer at the 1:07 mark as Crockett displayed notable improvement over its earlier performances.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL: Henderson County scored in all four innings in which it batted – including a five-spot in the third – on its way to defeating CCMS 10-4 Thursday in Lexington.

The Lady Tigers took advantage of four Crockett errors to tally six unearned runs, amounting to the difference in the ballgame. Catcher Mahaley Hicks went 2-for-2 with a run batted in to pace the Lady Cav offense. Brenley Hazlewood knocked in a run with a double, and Abbey McAnulty also plated a run. Crockett is now 5-3 on the season.



Left: Emmalynn Medlin -- who just started playing this year -- posted her best score yet (51) in helping the Lady Cavaliers salvage a tie with Madison. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Wesley Thornton continues to be a force for the Lady Cavaliers regardless of where she is on the court at any given time. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: The variety of facial expressions that Lakyn Forsythe goes through each match never fails to entertain. She's helped lead Crockett to a 9-4 record thus far this season. (Photo by Ron Barry)



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Below: Next Tuesday, the cross-country teams will be hosting the annual CCHS Invitational. Cavalier fans will get a chance to see freshman Jose Aguirre (shown here starting his medal-winning run at Union City this week) and the girls squad that became the first in Crockett history to defeat Obion County in a West Tennessee meet. (Photo by Cesia Sanchez)



Right: Madi Collins (left) celebrates a successful kill with setter Lakyn Forsythe (right) as Carmen Claybrooks (13) and Nataly Amador join in the huddle. Crockett edged Milan 25-23, 25-23, and 25-23 (again!) Thursday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Addie Davidson had to be plenty active from the back row with digs and passes to help Crockett get past a game Milan squad Thursday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



