CROCKETT GRIDDERS CRUSH ANOTHER HAPLESS FOE; LEXINGTON TO BE FIRST TRUE TEST



Above: Crockett quarterback Ben Burgess (10) is pursued by a Ripley lineman whose helmet (bottom right) has been dislodged. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Now that the Crockett County football Cavaliers have devoured the two cupcakes that were on the table, it's time to see how they'll digest actual meat.

This coming Friday night, the Cavs will take the field against their first Region foe of the season, a team that – like Crockett – is 2-0. Lexington will journey to Alamo having edged Riverside 14-8 for its second win after demolishing Bolivar Central in its opener.

It's hard to gauge exactly how prepared the Cavs can be, after facing two opponents so hapless that Crockett has yet to punt a single time. The latest victim was Ripley, which fell 62-0 to the hosts after putting up as little resistance as Nashville Collegiate Prep (a 68-0 loser) did in the first rout.

"It'll be different this week," Coach Kevin Ward acknowledged as he left the field Friday night after watching his troops completely dominate the visitors. Crockett led 28-0 by the end of the first quarter and 55-0 by the half, and only a running clock during the final two periods kept the scoreboard from blowing a fuse.

Outside of being penalized seven times for 70 yards – and this by a crew that called four fumbled laterals by Ripley "incomplete forward passes" – Ward's Cavs didn't do much wrong. The defense held the Tigers to 65 total yards on 33 plays, returned an interception for a touchdown, blocked a punt, and recovered a fumble that the officials deemed legitimate. Offensively, Crockett scored every single time it had the ball until a fourth-quarter pass interception. But the Cavs quickly got the ball back without difficulty and scored again to put a bow on the night's fireworks.

And just because Crockett's opponents thus far will only be able to see this year's playoffs from the bleachers, doesn't mean the home team lacks weapons. Senior running back DK Woods ran 14 times for 170 yards and four touchdowns; senior quarterback Ben Burgess threw two more scoring passes and now has seen five of his seven completions on the season go the distance; receivers Kris Phillips and Titus Luten each caught a touchdown for the second straight week; and Squirt Pickens picked off a Ripley pass and scooted 27 yards to the house for another tally.

Chris Mann also ran for a touchdown and sophomore Davis Porter caught a scoring pass from freshman quarterback Roman Barker.

Porter also recovered a fumble, Mann and Brody Parlow joined Pickens with interceptions, and sophomore Rylan Redding blocked a punt midway through the second period to set up Luten's score. Phillips, who also for Noah Mayfield's extra-point kicks when he's not at wide receiver, also threw a two-point conversion pass to Dontavious Forrest.

Friday's duel with Lexington will feature a fireworks show at halftime and a "Red, White, and Blue" theme as CCHS celebrates our nation's 250th birthday.

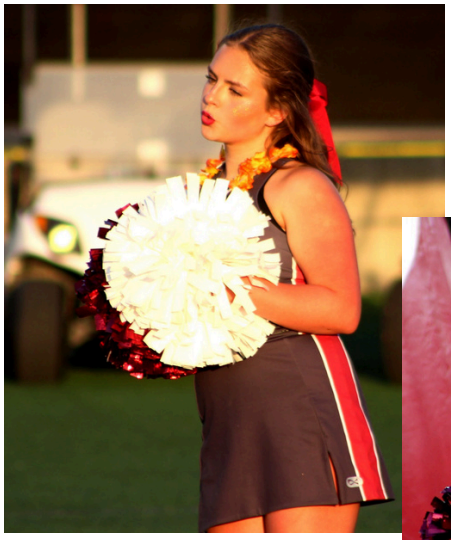
The Linescore:
RIP 0 0 0 0 - 0
CC 28 27 0 7 - 62
Crockett – DK Woods 1 run (kick failed)
Crockett – Woods 15 run (Noah Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Woods 16 run (Dontavious Forrest pass from Kris Phillips)
Crockett – Squirt Pickens 27 interception return (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Phillips 18 pass from Burgess (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Titus Luten 24 pass from Burgess (kick failed)
Crockett – Woods 16 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Chris Mann 1 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Davis Porter 16 pass from Roman Barker (Landeyn Catalan kick)

Friday, August 28
Game Statistics: Crockett 62, Ripley 0
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 42-358; RIP 33-65.
First Downs: CC 13; RIP 4.
Penalties-Yards: CC 7-70; RIP 12-93.
Punts-Yards-Avg: CC none; RIP 5-57-11.4.
Fumbles-Lost: CC 1-0; RIP 3-1.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 14-170 (4 TDs), Messiah McCurry 4-38, Chris Mann 5-23 (1 TD), Chris Vance 6-23, Kris Phillips 2-12, Roman Barker 2-10, Khalan Thomas 1-6, Ben Burgess 1-6, Jeremiah Young 1-1, Team 36-289 (5 TDs). RIP Rushing: Zayden Walker 4-25, Cedric Murrell 13-15, Mekel Frazier 3-1, Team 20-41.
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 3-4-53-0 (2 TDs), Roman Barker 1-2-16-1 (1 TD), Team 4-6-69-1. RIP Passing: Russell Houston 2-8-24-2, Frazier 0-5-0-1, Team 2-13-24-3.
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Titus Luten 1-24 (1 TD), Kris Phillips 1-18 (1 TD), Davis Porter 1-16 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 1-11. RIP Receiving: Jonathan Currie 2-24.
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Squirt Pickens 1-27 (1 TD), Brody Parlow 1-5, Chris Mann 1-0. RIP Pass Interceptions: Carson Bates 1-27.
CC Fumble Recoveries: Davis Porter 1-0, Team 1-0. RIP Fumble Recoveries: none.
CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): Jeremiah Young 1-10, Team 1-10. RIP Kickoff Returns: Walker 2-33, Murrell 3-17, Jeremiah Boxley 1-0, Team 6-50.
CC Punt Returns: Squirt Pickens 1-8. RIP Punt Returns: None.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): DK Woods 4-0-0-0-24, Kris Phillips 1-0-0-0-6, Titus Luten 1-0-0-0-6, Chris Mann 1-0-0-0-6, Davis Porter 1-0-0-0-6, Squirt Pickens 1-0-0-0-6, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-5-5, Dontavious Forrest 0-1-0-0-2, Landeyn Catalan 0-0-0-1-1, Team 9-1-0-6-62. RIP Scoring: none.

Season Statistics: Record 2-0 (Region 0-0)
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 59-580; OPP 66-92.
First Downs: CC 18; OPP 6.
Penalties-Yards: CC 11-110; OPP 21-143.
Punts-Yards-Avg: CC none; OPP 8-119-14.8.
Fumbles-Lost: CC 1-0; OPP 6-4.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 17-209 (6 TDs), Messiah McCurry 8-92 (1 TD), Chris Vance 8-71 (1 TD), Khalan Thomas 3-34 (1 TD), Chris Mann 5-23 (1 TD), Jeremiah Young 2-15, Kris Phillips 2-12, Roman Barker 3-10, Ben Burgess 1-6, Team 49-472 (10 TDs). OPP Rushing: 44-53.
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 7-8-92-0 (5 TDs), Roman Barker 1-2-16-1 (1 TD), Team 8-10-108-1 (6 TDs). OPP Passing: 7-22-39-4.
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Kris Phillips 2-38 (2 TDs), Titus Luten 2-35 (2 TDs), Davis Porter 1-16 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 2-14, Ian Greenberg 1-5 (1 TD), Team 8-108 (6 TDs). OPP Receiving: 7-39.
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Ian Greenberg 1-58 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 1-27 (1 TD), Brody Parlow 1-8, Chris Mann 1-0, Team 4-93 (2 TDs). OPP Pass Interceptions: 1-27.
CC Fumble Recoveries: Nolen Turner 1-16 (1 TD), Rylan Redding 1-0, Peter Bosco 1-0, Davis Porter 1-0, Team 4-16 (1 TD). OPP Fumble Recoveries: none.
CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): Jeremiah Young 1-10, Team 1-10. OPP Kickoff Returns: 15-165.
CC Punt Returns: Squirt Pickens 4-51. OPP Punt Returns: None.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): DK Woods 6-0-0-0-36, Ian Greenberg 2-0-0-0-12, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-13-13, Kris Phillips 2-0-0-0-12, Titus Luten 2-0-0-0-12, Khalan Thomas 1-0-0-0-6, Chris Vance 1-0-0-0-6, Messiah McCurry 1-0-0-0-6, Chris Mann 1-0-0-0-6, Squirt Pickens 1-0-0-0-6, Davis Porter 1-0-0-0-6, Nolen Turner 1-0-0-0-6, Dontavious Forrest 0-1-0-0-2, Landeyn Catalan 0-0-0-1-1, Team 19-1-0-14-130. OPP Scoring: none.



Above: Carson Bridger (79) brings down a Tiger running back to offset the Ripley hold being applied to Crockett's Khalan Thomas (20). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Crockett cheerleader Aleigha Dunn sings along with some pre-game Dolly Parton music before the players race onto the field. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Allyssa Ward and Lillian Ray are ready for some Friday Night Lights. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Does anyone really think that grabbing the jersey of Crockett's DK Woods (32) is actually going to slow him down? (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Nope. Result: Touchdown #3 on the night. One of four. 14 carries, 170 yards. All in less than two quarters. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Defensive back Ian Greenberg is a major reason Crockett's first two foes haven't been very successful trying to throw the ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Titus Luten (4) made a sensational lunging grab of a toss over the middle, somehow kept his balance, and scored his second touchdown in two weeks. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: The Cavalier Crazies were ready to rumble too -- or, go to the beach. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Dontavious Forrest (33) -- who later caught a two-point conversion pass -- joins Kris Phillips (6) and Khalan Thomas (20) in making this tackle. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Another reason is Squirt Pickens (3), who intercepted this Ripley pass and immediately picked up blocking help from Chris Mann (28) and Dontavious Forrest (33). (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: And when Brody Jones (11) took out the final Tiger would-be tackler, Squirt Pickens had a touchdown return. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Kris Phillips (6) caught his second touchdown pass in as many weeks, and also threw a successful two-point conversion pass. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Brody Parlow (5) picked off a Tiger pass and was congratulated by Brody Jones (11), Dontavious Forrest (33), and Jacob Howard (52). (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: With the sky apparently on fire behind him, Rylan Redding (18) blocked a Ripley punt to set up another score. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: These gals certainly enjoyed their evening. Left to right: Kennedy Henning, Emmie Pickens, Addie Hoover, Lexie Beaird, and Mia Grace Simmons. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Quarterback Ben Burgess (10) -- over the first two games -- has completed seven of his eight passes, with five going for touchdowns. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Nolen Turner (54) scooped up this Ripley fumble, but it was negated by an inadvertent whistle by the officiating crew -- which had trouble all night identifying fumbles. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Chris Vance (15) fights for some hard-earned yards, benefitting from the blocking of sophomore James Bruton (62). (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Circumstances will almost certainly be much tougher this coming week when these "CAVS" flagbearers hit the field against Lexington. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Freshman quarterback Roman Barker (12) -- rolling to his left -- threw across his body for his first varsity touchdown pass ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... to speedy sophomore Davis Porter (9), who was wide open in the left corner of the end zone. Porter also recovered a Ripley fumble in the contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: But as long as this guy -- DK Woods (32) -- keeps finding holes like this from the blocks of Titus Luten (4), Nolen Turner (54), and Ittai Fry (57), Crockett will be formidable. (Photo by Ron Barry)