CCHS VOLLEYBALLERS SURVIVE MARATHON MATCH AT COVINGTON WITH NAIL-BITING COMEBACK



Above: Emilee Chandler's service game down the stretch helped Crockett complete its five-set comeback win against Covington Tuesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)

If Crockett County volleyball coach Andrew Laman looks up at another scoreboard and sees 25-23 again – well, his nerves may not last much longer.

In the Lady Cavaliers' last three matches, that score has appeared at the end of an incredible six sets – all won by Crockett. And while Laman is certainly grateful for the victories, he's ready to welcome a bit of breathing room in some of them. That wasn't going to be the case Tuesday night as Crockett journeyed to Covington, where they faced a rematch of last season's West Sectional duel for a TSSAA State Championship Tournament berth. Laman's club eked out a 25-22, 25-22, 25-18 win in that one, and a repeat wouldn't be easy, with the Lady Chargers returning one of the Memphis area's best players in senior Ava McCalla.

With vengeance clearly on their minds Tuesday night, the hosts immediately seized Set#1 and won it 25-13. Crockett rallied to take Set #2 25-20, but Set #3 flashed that old familiar 25-23 result – but this time, unfortunately, the Lady Cavs were on the losing end. Now they'd have to win two straight sets to claim their sixth consecutive match triumph.

Set #4 ended – you guessed it – 25-23, but this time in Crockett's favor. It would all boil down to a first-team-to-15-points Set #5.

At least it wouldn't be 25-23, barring an overtime war of epic proportions. But it could be 15-13 – which it was – and Laman's troops escaped with the victory, thanks to effective blocks and kills by Madi Collins and Wesley Thornton and effective serves down the stretch by Emilee Chandler.

"Man, that was too close for comfort," Laman said after the marathon contest. "Covington is a good team – very scrappy, and they didn't give us many easy balls back. We played far from our best, but still found a way to dig deep and win some points after being down 1-0 and then again being down 2-1.

"We normally play them in the Sectional game, so there's a chance we could play them again if we make it that far – which, if we keep our heads straight, I believe we can. Our serving got more consistent and more accurate as the match went on, and I think that helped us a ton."

Laman believes this is the best team Covington has fielded in that last several years, so he knows that yet another post-season rematch will be a tall order for his now 12-4 Lady Cavs. Crockett is 6-0 since returning from the White Station Spartan Showdown Tournament in Memphis. Next up is a match at Obion County Central on Thursday.

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF: Senior Rachel Crossnoe was the low medalist in the girls match, but Crockett fell in both of the team matches Tuesday by narrow margins to Dyersburg in a duel at The Farms.

Crossnoe's 45 was the best score among the girls, but the Lady Trojans produced a team score of 95 to Crockett's 97. Dyersburg's total was achieved by Cally Cook (47) and Stella Madden (48). Alyssa Stricklin completed the Lady Cavs' total with a 52.

The boys match was nip-and-tuck until the final hole, when two Cavs encountered triple bogeys that helped Dyersburg gain a 161-166 win. Trojan Ryan Wesson was the medalist with a 37, while Crockett's Jack Shaver tied Dyersburg's John David Morris with a 39 for second. The Cavs' George Randall carded a 40, while Max Woods posted a 43 and Myles Perkins a 44. Dyersburg's Brett Horner had a 41 and Jayce Ellerbrook a 44.

"It was hot," said Coach Pate Randall, "and that's not an easy course to walk."

Crockett's teams will compete in the Hornet Classic this coming Monday at the Humboldt Golf & Country Club.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: Crockett's girls soccer team – playing its first match in 19 days – was blanked 3-0 by Westview in Martin Tuesday.

"It was a tough loss tonight, but this team fought hard until the very end," said Coach Alex Taylor. "We may not have gotten the result we wanted, but the heart, hustle, and determination were there from start to finish. I'm proud of these girls for never giving up and continuing to battle until the final whistle."

The Lady Cavs will host Dyer County Thursday evening at 5:30.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL: Henderson County hung a pair of six-spots on Crockett in the second and fourth innings as the Lexington team claimed a 17-4 triumph over the now 5-5 CCMS Lady Cavs.

Henderson County pounded 12 hits in tandem with eight walks and three Crockett errors to produce its impressive offensive attack. No Lady Cav player had more than one hit, but Sami Dew drove in a pair of runs and Abbey McAnulty walked in both of her plate appearances. Farrah Maddux had a run-scoring hit and also tallied herself for Crockett, which will host South Gibson Thursday at 5:00.

MIDDLE SCHOOL FOOTBALL: CCMS defeated South Gibson 20-8 Tuesday night at Cavalier Stadium. The Cavaliers will travel to Martin next Tuesday to battle Westview.



Above: Madi Collins contributed several huge blocks and kills as the Lady Cavs won their sixth straight match. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Wesley Thornton joined Collins in producing big shots from the front row as Crockett improved to 12-4 on the season. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Caroline Scruggs (1) -- with teammates Avery Thornton (foreground) and Kate Davis (background) joining her -- makes a push toward the Westview goal Tuesday. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Right: Rebecca Waddey tries to maneuver around a Westview defender in Tuesday's match in Martin, won by the Lady Chargers 3-0. Rebecca also announced that she has accepted an offer to play collegiate soccer next fall at Truett McConnell University, rated as the top Christian school in the state of Georgia. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Below: Skyleigh Qualls (23) breaks up a Westview rush toward the goal with this slide, deflecting the ball over to Crockett defender Chloe Campbell. (Photo by Robin Waddey)





Above: Rachel Crossnoe was the girls medalist Tuesday at The Farms in Dyersburg with a 45, but the Lady Trojans edged Crockett in team play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Jack Shaver carded a 39 to tie for second in the boys side of the Dyersburg match. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Lady Cav goalkeeper Hannah Wede goes high to stop this Westview shot as teammates Ruth Gourley (4) and Chloe Campbell (24) arrive to lend support. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: George Randall was just a shot behind Shaver with a 40, but the Cavs fell to the host Trojans by five shots overall. (Photo by Ron Barry)

