CROCKETT FOOTBALLERS DEMOLISH HARDIN COUNTY; NORTH SIDE NEXT ON THE DOCKET



Above: Crockett head football coach Kevin Ward talks with linebacker Brody Jones during a timeout in Friday's 62-7 romp over Hardin County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

On a hot, humid Friday night, Titus Luten figured he'd get in a little bit of track practice for the upcoming spring season.
He just happened to be wearing a football helmet and shoulder pads while he did it.

Crockett County's senior wide receiver – who works overtime on the school's track team in the spring as a high jumper and hurdler – had a night for the ages in Savannah Friday, even though he only touched the ball four times. But he gained 206 total yards and scored three times in those brief moments.

Luten's efforts were emblematic of the total domination the Cavaliers hung on Hardin County, crushing their hosts 62-7 in a game which saw its tone set early by the Crockett defense on the Tigers' first series from scrimmage.

Linebacker DK Woods tossed Hardin's Landon Browder for a five-yard loss on an end sweep on first down. Lineman Carson Bridger hammered quarterback Aidan Coleman on a keeper for no gain on second down. Linebacker Brody Jones then sacked Coleman for a six-yard loss on third down. And suddenly the Tigers' Riley Savage was punting on fourth-and-20. It went downhill for Hardin County from there.

Meanwhile, Crockett scored every time it had the ball except once, when a fumble lost at the Tiger 17 briefly halted the onslaught late in the opening quarter. But the Cavaliers quickly got the ball back, and the fumbler – Woods, who rarely does that – made amends with a thunderous 38-yard scoring romp to make it 20-0 at the time.

Before that, wingback Squirt Pickens had raced 49 yards for the game's opening touchdown at just the 8:51 mark of the first quarter, on Crockett's third play. And Luten had gathered in a 44-yard scoring bomb from Ben Burgess on the Cavs' fourth play from scrimmage, following a fumble recovery by defensive back Brody Parlow.

Following Woods' first touchdown and before the initial period had ended, Woods lumbered another 52 yards for a fourth Crockett touchdown, and it was 27-0 when the quarter mercifully ended.

The Cavs struck three more times in Quarter #2. After Mason Dennis picked off a Coleman pass, Burgess again connected on another fly pattern for 35 yards to the Hardin eight. Woods took it in from there for his third touchdown of the contest, and Noah Mayfield's extra point kick made it 34-0.

Following another Tiger punt – already their fifth of the game – Jeremiah Young raced 32 yards for a score despite having his head spun around when his helmet was grabbed 10 yards out from the end zone. Somehow he kept his feet, reset his vision, and tallied anyway. Mayfield made it 41-0 with 3:19 to go in the half.

Crockett forced another punt and Burgess again watched Luten sprint past Hardin's secondary, hitting him in stride for a 47-yard touchdown with 19 seconds remaining, and it was 48-0 at the break.

That meant a running clock for the second half, but the Cavs still found time to score twice more. The first happened in a flash on the second-half kickoff when Luten fielded a low kick on the dead run at his own 20 and just zipped through the heart of the hapless Tiger defense for 80 speedy yards and a 55-0 lead. And at the beginning of the final quarter, Dennis broke off an eight-yard touchdown run to put a lid on the Crockett offense for the night.

Hardin County scored on the game's final play on an 18-yard pass from backup quarterback Parker Savage to Riley Savage.
"I was extremely pleased with the way we shut down their running game, controlled the line of scrimmage, and took their crowd out of it early," said Cav coach Kevin Ward. "We did a lot of good things that will win football games, and I'm very happy with what our guys showed tonight. But next week is going to be a much tougher task with (Jackson) North Side coming in. They have a lot of speed, among other things, and our guys will see a bigger test than they saw tonight."

North Side defeated Dyer County 50-14 Friday night, which puts both the Indians and Cavaliers at 2-1 in Region 7-4A play behind Lexington's 3-0, after a 42-7 thumping of Chester County.

"Whoever wins is in second place in the Region," Ward said. "If they stay there, that means a home playoff game to get the post-season started. We want to keep climbing the ladder back into it after losing that game to Lexington."

North Side is Crockett's homecoming opponent. The annual parade is set for Thursday night, along with a PowderPuff girls game. The Cavs and Indians will duel Friday night at 7:00.

Friday, September 18
Game Statistics: Crockett 62, Hardin County 7
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 25-421; HC 45-131.
First Downs: CC 5; HC 6.
Penalties-Yards: CC 2-10; HC 0-0.
Punts-Yards-Avg: CC none; HC 6-140-23.3.
Fumbles-Lost: CC 3-1; DC 2-1.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 10-158 (3 TDs), Squirt Pickens 1-49 (1 TD), Mason Dennis 4-45 (1 TD), Jeremiah Young 1-32 (1 TD), Chris Vance 3-16, Roman Barker 1-5, bad snap 1-(-14), Team 21-291 (6 TDs). HC Rushing: Isaiah Bingham 3-26, Carson Stricklin 8-26, Parker Savage 3-18, Aidan Coleman 17-18, Gavin Cromwell 1-2, Landon Browder 1-(-5), Team 33-85.
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 4-5-130-0 (2 TDs), Team 4-5-130-0 (2 TDs). HC Passing: P Savage 2-2-30-0 (1 TD), Coleman 3-10-16-1, Team 5-12-46-1.
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Titus Luten 3-126 (2 TDs), Kris Phillips 1-4. HC Receiving: R Savage 2-30 (1 TD), Heath Hardin 1-9, Brayden Snodgrass 2-7.
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Mason Dennis 1-2, Team 1-2. HC Pass Interceptions: none.
CC Fumble Recoveries: Brody Parlow 1-0. HC Fumble Recoveries: Cromwell 1-0.
CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): Titus Luten 1-80 (1 TD), Team 1-80 (1 TD). HC Kickoff Returns: Cromwell 5-62, Browder 2-44, Coleman 1-17, Stricklin 1-3, Team 9-126.
CC Punt Returns: Squirt Pickens 1-4. HC Punt Returns: none.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): DK Woods 3-0-0-0-18, Titus Luten 3-0-0-0-18, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-8-8, Mason Dennis 1-0-0-0-6, Squirt Pickens 1-0-0-0-6, Jeremiah Young 1-0-0-0-6,Team 9-0-0-8-62. HC Scoring: R Savage 1-0-0-0-6, Javier Chavez 0-0-0-1-1, Team 1-0-0-1-7.

The Linescore:
CC 27 21 7 7 - 62
HC 0 0 0 7 - 7
Crockett – Squirt Pickens 49 run (Noah Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Titus Luten 44 pass from Ben Burgess (kick blocked)
Crockett – DK Woods 38 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Woods 52 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Woods 8 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Jeremiah Young 32 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Luten 47 pass from Burgess (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Luten 80 kickoff return (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Mason Dennis 8 run (Mayfield kick)
HC – Riley Savage 18 pass from Parker Savage (Javier Chavez kick)

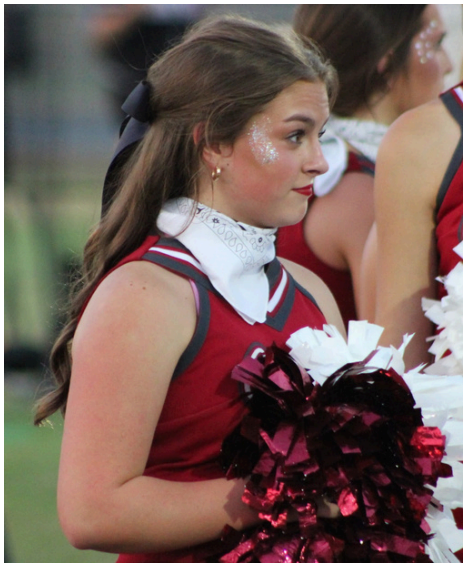
Season Statistics: Record 4-1 (Region 2-1)
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 157-1,497; OPP 214-726. First Downs: CC 42; OPP 38. Penalties-Yards: CC 20-180; OPP 34-261. Punts-Yards-Avg: CC 3-112-37.3; OPP 19-428-22.5. Fumbles-Lost: CC 8-2; OPP 13-5.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 46-525 (10 TDs), Chris Vance 13-99 (1 TD), Messiah McCurry 8-92 (1 TD), Ben Burgess 26-85 (4 TDs), Squirt Pickens 3-82 (1 TD), Khalan Thomas 5-69 (2 TDs), Mason Dennis 7-58 (1 TD), Jeremiah Young 4-54 (1 TD), Chris Mann 5-23 (1 TD), Roman Barker 4-15, Kris Phillips 3-10, bad snap from center 1-(-14), Team 125-1,098 (22 TDs). OPP Rushing: 159-446 (4 TDs).
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 20-31-383-1 (8 TDs), Roman Barker 1-2-16-1 (1 TD), Team 21-33-399-2 (9 TDs). OPP Passing: 24-55-280-7 (3 TDs).
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Titus Luten 7-226 (4 TDs), Kris Phillips 5-103 (3 TDs), Mason Dennis 2-19, Davis Porter 1-16 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 2-14, DK Woods 2-13, Ian Greenberg 1-5 (1 TD), Jeremiah Young 1-3, Team 21-399 (9 TDs). OPP Receiving: 24-280 (3 TDs).
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Ian Greenberg 1-58 (1 TD), Mason Dennis 2-46 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 1-27 (1 TD), Kris Phillips 1-13, Brody Parlow 1-8, Chris Mann 1-0, Team 7-152 (3 TDs). OPP Pass Interceptions: 2-40.
CC Fumble Recoveries: Nolen Turner 1-16 (1 TD), Brody Parlow 1-0, Rylan Redding 1-0, Peter Bosco 1-0, Davis Porter 1-0, Team 5-16 (1 TD). OPP Fumble Recoveries: 2-0 (includes an onside kick recovery).
CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): Titus Luten 2-162 (2 TDs), Squirt Pickens 1-22, Jeremiah Young 1-10, Ian Greenberg 1-2, Team 5-196 (2 TDs). OPP Kickoff Returns: 29-417.
CC Punt Returns: Squirt Pickens 6-72. OPP Punt Returns: 1-15.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): DK Woods 10-0-0-0-60, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-28-28, Titus Luten 6-0-0-0-24, Ben Burgess 4-0-0-0-24, Kris Phillips 3-0-0-0-18, Squirt Pickens 2-0-0-0-12, Mason Dennis 2-0-0-0-12, Ian Greenberg 2-0-0-0-12, Khalan Thomas 2-0-0-0-12, Chris Vance 1-0-0-0-6, Jeremiah Young 1-0-0-0-6, Messiah McCurry 1-0-0-0-6, Chris Mann 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 37-1-0-29-253. OPP Scoring: 7-0-0-5-47

Below: Titus Luten hauls in a perfectly-thrown 44-yard touchdown bomb from Ben Burgess for the first of his three touchdowns Friday night in Savannah. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Luten -- shown here finishing off the catch -- caught three tosses for 126 yards (2 TDs) and returned the second-half kickoff 80 yards for another score. That's 206 yards on 4 touches. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: DK Woods -- playing defensive linebacker -- actually set the tone for this game by tossing end sweep runner Landon Browder for a five-yard loss on the Tigers' first play from scrimmage. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Aleigha Dunn was ready to cheer on the Cavaliers at Hardin County during pre-game festivities. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Carson Bridger (79) then took down quarterback Aidan Coleman for no gain just before Squirt Pickens (3), DK Woods (32), and Brody Jones (11) arrived to help out. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: On third down, Brody Jones crashed in and sacked Aidan Coleman for a six-yard loss, and Hardin County was punting on fourth-and-20. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Mia Grace Simmons looks like she's trying to stir up some animosity toward Hardin County as she prepares for cheering on the Cavs. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: When the Cavalier offense got the ball, Squirt Pickens (3) dashed 49 yards for a touchdown on its third play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Coach Kevin Ward was especially pleased with the way Crockett shut down the Tigers' running game. Dontavious Forrest (33) takes down Aidan Coleman on this play. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: When Crockett had the ball again after Luten's first TD, this apparent logjam at the line -- with Sebastian Garduno (63), Carson Bridger (79), and Jayden Young (60) pushing hard to clear it, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: ... suddenly opened up for DK Woods, who rambled 38 yards for the first of his three touchdowns. Woods totaled 158 yards on 10 carries. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: A Brody Parlow fumble recovery set up one of the Cavaliers' four first-quarter touchdowns. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: DK Woods broke a 52-yard touchdown run just before the first period ended. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: It was a "White-Out" game designation for Cav students, and softball centerfielder Fallon Beaird and golfer/baseball third baseman George Randall were on hand to brighten up the bleachers. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Below: Jeremiah Young (1) almost had has helmet ripped off when he made this run, but even with it tilted somewhat sideways on his head ... (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: ... Young got away, kept his balance, and completed a 32-yard touchdown scamper to put Crockett ahead 41-0. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Left: Mason Dennis crosses the goal line for his first offensive touchdown on the season on an eight-yard carry. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Noah Mayfield was kept very busy kicking extra points, and except for a low trajectory boot that was blocked on the second one, he converted the other eight attempts. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Here's another Dontavious Forrest tackle, with Brody Jones waiting in the wings in case the Tiger back wrestles free. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Squirt Pickens (3) and Ian Greenberg (2) look like they're starting a new dance craze, but they're actually just landing after bumping chests to celebrate a touchdown. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Titus Luten and his teammates are well aware that next week's clash with Jackson North Side will not be nearly as carefree as the rout of Hardin County. (Photo by Ron Barry)

