WARD STILL WAITING FOR "NEXT PLAY" MENTALITY TO TAKE HOLD AS CAVS TOPPLE SGC 34-14



Above: DK Woods (32) is on his way to a 20-carry, 233-yard night -- with three more touchdowns to boot. (Photo by Ron Barry)

For the second straight relatively lopsided victory, Crockett County head football coach Kevin Ward saw a lot to love about the first half and a lot to cause discomfort in the second as his Cavaliers polished off South Gibson County 34-14 Friday night in Alamo.

The Cavs zoomed to a 27-0 lead with 3:09 left before intermission and then seemed to lose focus again, yielding a 72-yard scoring drive by the visitors and then stumbling through a penalty-filled final half salvaged only by a 56-yard touchdown run by DK Woods, his third rushing tally of the game and sixteenth of the season.

"We did a lot of things really, really well in the first half," Ward said, "but I don't know if the guys were thinking South Gibson's going to lay down because they're four touchdowns behind, or if we're worried about mistakes we made a couple of plays earlier. Either way, we have got to wrap our heads around the 'next play' mentality. We play pretty well some of the time in our games, but we're at the point in our season when we need to be playing well ALL of the time. And the only way to do that is to dedicate yourself to the next play every time the ball is snapped. You can't be thinking about something that happened earlier that maybe didn't go your way. It's time for the next play."

And – just as in the Dyersburg game which Crockett won handily 39-21 – the second half deteriorated into a series of 'dumb' penalties which Ward says will eventually get the Cavaliers beaten down the road if they continue.

"We're in a solid second place in the Region right now with two games to go," he said, "but if we keep shooting ourselves in the foot with these dumb penalties, it's going to catch up with us. We certainly can't do that in the playoffs and expect to advance. The opponents will be too good."

The second-half slack-offs have been especially discouraging because they erase much of the positive vibes generated by the solid execution of the first halves.

Against South Gibson, Woods and his offensive line had together already produced over 160 yards rushing before the break, and quarterback Ben Burgess already had over 150 passing yards. The bulk came on two plays: a throw off a scramble that receiver Kris Phillips turned into a 79-yard score down the right sideline, and a perfectly-thrown lob to speedster Titus Luten for a 32-yard touchdown with 3:09 left in the second quarter.

For the contest, Burgess completed seven of 10 passes for 164 yards and the two scores. Woods – going over 200 yards for the second straight game – ran for 233 yards on 20 carries and his three TDs.

Defensively, Crockett held South Gibson's rushers under 100 yards, and although Hornet quarterback Cannon Caraway accumulated 193 passing yards, he needed 35 throws to do it and was picked off twice by Cav defenders, once each by Squirt Pickens and Brody Parlow.

While the final score indicates a comfortable win, it could have been much different if not for a great play made by Crockett senior punter Noah Mayfield when the score was still 27-14 and the hosts were forced to kick from their own 28. The snap was well above Mayfield's head, but he leaped high to snare it – calling on the soccer goalie skills he uses in the spring sports season – and then hurriedly boomed a 53-yard punt that finally rolled dead at the SGC 19. Crockett's defense held, and Woods broke off his 56-yard scoring run on the Cavs' next play from scrimmage to seal the Region win.

With two weeks of the regular season to go, Crockett is 7-1 overall and 4-1 in Region 7-4A. The current standings are as follows: Lexington 5-0, Crockett 4-1, Jackson North Side 3-2, Hardin County 3-2, Chester County 2-3, South Gibson 2-3, Dyer County 1-4, Jackson South Side 0-5. With one more victory, the Cavs would secure second place and a home playoff game, as they hold the tiebreaker edge over any team with the capacity to match a two-loss record.

Crockett travels to Chester County in Henderson next Friday night.

Friday, October 16
Game Statistics: Crockett 34, South Gibson 14
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 43-435; SG 61-290.
First Downs: CC 9; SG 14.
Penalties-Yards: CC 9-80; SG 10-75.
Punts-Yards-Avg: CC 4-156-39.0; SG 6-238-39.7.
Fumbles-Lost: CC 2-0; SG 1-0.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 20-233 (3 TDs), Squirt Pickens 4-29, Ben Burgess 9-9, Team 33-271 (3 TDs). SG Rushing: Tyshaun Jeter 19-73, Cannon Caraway 6-21, Jaxon Young 1-3, Team 26-97.
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 7-10-164-0 (2 TDs). SG Passing: Caraway 19-35-193-2 (2 TDs).
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Kris Phillips 2-87 (1 TD), Titus Luten 3-58 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 2-19. SG Receiving: Jaxon Young 7-107 (1 TD), Cason Coggins 7-70 (1 TD), Owen Snuffin 3-12, Drey Scott 1-7, Carter McMillion 1-(-3).
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Brody Parlow 1-7, Squirt Pickens 1-0. SG Pass Interceptions: none.
CC Fumble Recoveries: none. SG Fumble Recoveries: none.
CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): none. SG Kickoff Returns: Jeter 1-18, Scott 1-13, Team 2-31.
CC Punt Returns: Squirt Pickens 1-4. SG Punt Returns: Coggins 1-6.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): Woods 3-0-0-0-18, Luten 1-0-0-0-6, Phillips 1-0-0-0-6, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-4-4, Team 5-0-0-4-34. SG Scoring: Young 1-0-0-0-6, Coggins 1-0-0-0-6, Max McGowan 0-0-0-2-2, Team 2-0-0-2-14.

The Linescore:
SG 0 7 7 0 - 14
CC 13 14 0 7 - 34
Crockett – DK Woods 4 run (kick failed)
Crockett – Woods 64 run (Noah Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Kris Phillips 79 pass from Ben Burgess (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Titus Luten 32 pass from Burgess (Mayfield kick)
SGC – Cason Coggins 4 pass from Cannon Caraway (Max McGowan kick)
SGC – Jaxon Young 16 pass from Caraway (McGowan kick)
Crockett – Woods 56 run (Mayfield kick)

Season Statistics: Record 7-1 (Region 4-1)
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 286-2,724; OPP 375-1,448.
First Downs: CC 78; OPP 77.
Penalties-Yards: CC 39-370; OPP 59-445.
Punts-Yards-Avg: CC 13-505-38.8; OPP 34-898-26.4.
Fumbles-Lost: CC 13-4; OPP 17-7.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 99-1,024 (16 TDs), Squirt Pickens 11-227 (3 TDs), Ben Burgess 54-176 (4 TDs), Khalan Thomas 13-141 (3 TDs), Ben Burgess 41-117 (4 TDs), Chris Vance 13-99 (1 TD), Messiah McCurry 8-92 (1 TD), Mason Dennis 8-63 (1 TD), Jeremiah Young 4-54 (1 TD), Chris Mann 5-23 (1 TD), Roman Barker 4-15, Kris Phillips 3-10, Titus Luten 2-2, bad snap from center 2-(-19), Team 226-1,907 (31 TDs). OPP Rushing: 255-812 (6 TDs).
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 37-59-801-1 (15 TDs), Roman Barker 1-2-16-1 (1 TD), Team 38-61-817-2 (16 TDs). OPP Passing: 56-120-636-11 (6 TDs).
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Titus Luten 13-389 (7 TDs), Kris Phillips 9-218 (5 TDs), Squirt Pickens 6-96 (1 TD), Brody Jones 2-53 (1 TD), Mason Dennis 2-19, DK Woods 3-18, Davis Porter 1-16 (1 TD), Ian Greenberg 1-5 (1 TD), Jeremiah Young 1-3, Team 38-817 (16 TDs). OPP Receiving: 56-636 (6 TDs).
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Mason Dennis 3-85 (1 TD), Ian Greenberg 1-58 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 2-27 (1 TD), Brody Parlow 2-15, Kris Phillips 1-13, Brody Jones 1-6, Chris Mann 1-0, Team 11-204 (3 TDs). OPP Pass Interceptions: 2-40.
CC Fumble Recoveries: Nolen Turner 1-16 (1 TD), DK Woods 1-12, Brody Parlow 1-0, Rylan Redding 1-0, Peter Bosco 1-0, Davis Porter 1-0, Carson Bridger 1-0, Team 7-28 (1 TD). OPP Fumble Recoveries: 4-0 (includes an onside kick recovery).
CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): Titus Luten 2-162 (2 TDs), Squirt Pickens 2-24, Mason Dennis 1-13, Jeremiah Young 1-10, Ian Greenberg 1-2, Team 7-211 (2 TDs). OPP Kickoff Returns: 42-659 (1 TD).
CC Punt Returns: Squirt Pickens 7-76, Khalan Thomas 1-21 (1 TD) from end zone recovery after punt block by Rylan Redding, Titus Luten 2-16, Team 10-113 (1 TD). OPP Punt Returns: 4-31.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): DK Woods 16-0-0-0-96, Titus Luten 9-0-0-0-54, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-41-41, Squirt Pickens 5-0-0-0-30, Kris Phillips 5-0-0-0-30, Ben Burgess 4-0-0-0-24, Khalan Thomas 4-0-0-0-24, Mason Dennis 2-0-0-0-12, Ian Greenberg 2-0-0-0-12, Brody Jones 1-0-0-0-6, 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 54-1-0-42-368. OPP Scoring: 13-0-0-11-89.

Below: Ben Burgess: 7-of-10 passes for 164 yards and two TDs. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Crockett cheerleader Eva Burleson was ready to get rowdy despite a cold, windy, and drizzly night. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Titus Luten (4) made this leaping touchdown reception despite the efforts of Hornet defender Carson Bobbit ... (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Crockett's Jacob Howard (52) hammers South Gibson running back Tyshaun Jeter just as Ian Greenberg (2) and Squirt Pickens (3) arrive to help out. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... and made sure the corner official could see that he kept the ball off the turf and in his possession ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: ... thus igniting the touchdown celebration at the signal. (Photo by Ron Barry)





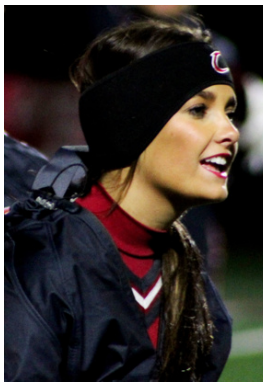
Above: Crockett's Khalan Thomas (20) forced a punt on SGC's second possession by taking down Hornet runner Tyshaun Jeter ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... with a big hit for a three-yard loss. The Hornets were held under 100 yards rushing. (Photo by Ron Barry)



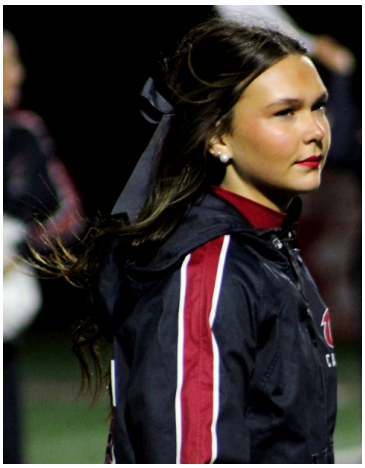


Above: Kris Phillips (6) took a short pass on a scramble by Ben Burgess and zipped up the right sideline, picking up an escort from Squirt Pickens (3), ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Cheer team veteran Lexie Beaird showed it wasn't her first cold-weather rodeo, coming prepared for the miserable weather. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right : Mia Grace Simmons faced the lousy weather head-on and cheered the Cavs to victory anyway. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Brody Parlow (5) has a foot; Dontavious Forrest (33) has the torso; and Khlan Thomas (20) is hammering the shoulder of SGC ballcarrier Tyshaun Jeter. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: ... who managed to provide enough obstruction so that South Gibson's Cason Coggins (14) couldn't catch Phillips, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... who turned the catch-and-run into a 79-yard touchdown for the Cavaliers ... (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: ... and earned congratulations from Ryder Williams (85) and Pickens (3). (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Granted, 5-on-1 does NOT look like a fair fight on the surface... (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Brody Jones (11) and Dontavious Forrest (33) are trying to get Tyshaun Jeter off his feet while Jeter's linemen are trying to hold him up. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Mason Dennis (7) thought he had a fumble recovery for the Cavaliers -- teammates Squirt Pickens (3) and Jacob Howard (52) thought so too -- but the play was ruled dead by the officials. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: ... but if the Hornets will work together with perseverance and not give up ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: ... they MIGHT be able to take DK Woods down after all -- but NOT necessarily. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: The game took a ridiculous three hours to play (too many officials' discussions again), and Addie Hoover needed a heater. (Photo by Ron Barry)

