LADY CAV SOCCER SEASON ENDS; VB SECTIONAL IN COVINGTON THURSDAY; XC BOYS EXCEL



Above: Crockett senior Avery Thornton battles with Dyersburg defender Jill Meadows for control of the ball Tuesday evening in Medina. (Photo by Ron Barry)

On a busy Tuesday evening in Crockett County sports, the Lady Cavaliers' soccer season ended in the District 13-AA Tournament; the volleyball team finished as runner-up in the Region 7-AA Tournament and learned its Sectional destination for Thursday's shot at a return to the State; and three Cav runners earned medals and two others joined them in setting new personal records in a 5K at the Dyer County Invitational.

GIRLS SOCCER: Dyersburg posted a 4-1 win over the Lady Cavs at the district tournament in Medina to officially eliminate Crockett from further post-season competition this year. Coach Alex Taylor's squad finished the season with a 6-7-2 record.

The Lady Cavs, sparked by the defensive effort of Braniya Green and numerous saves by Hannah Wede, were hanging tough with the talented Lady Trojans even after Dyersburg broke a scoreless deadlock by netting a goal with just 11:01 remaining in the first half. The 1-0 Lady Trojan lead looked like it might hold until intermission, but a Crockett defensive breakdown allowed a second tally at the 1:06 mark.

Wede made 15 saves in the opening half alone as Dyersburg kept peppering her with shots. If not for the speed of Green and Chloe Campbell helping negate some attacks – as well as assistance from Caroline Scruggs to clear out a couple of corner kick opportunities – the deficit could have been far worse.

Crockett's lack of offensive shot opportunities made a comeback unlikely, especially when Dyersburg pushed the margin to 3-0 at 22:22 of the second half and added another just minutes later. The Lady Cavs avoided a shutout in the game's final 90 seconds when Alivia Hale and Avery Thornton teamed up for a two-on-one rush at the Dyersburg goalkeeper, who managed to deflect the first shot attempt, but when Hale kept her occupied as the ball trickled away, senior Thornton punched it into the net to put a cap on her soccer career.

VOLLEYBALL: Dyer County won its fifth consecutive Region7-AA Tournament championship by downing the Lady Cavaliers 25-14, 25-20, and 25-21 – its fourth triumph over Crockett this season, although Coach Andrew Laman's club continues to be the one that forces the powerful Lady Choctaws to battle their hardest.

But now the attention turns to Thursday night's Sectional at Covington, where Crockett will duel the Region 8-AA Tournament champion Lady Chargers. The Lady Cavs won a five-set match there earlier this season in which Crockett had to win the final two sets – which they did, 25-23 and 15-13. Crockett also eliminated Covington last season in this same situation, so the Lady Chargers will be gunning for a double-dose of revenge.

Crockett will carry a 29-11 record into the contest. The winner advances to the TSSAA State Championships next week.

CROSS-COUNTRY: With most of her girls engaged in the soccer district tournament, Coach Julie Nass concentrated on her male runners at the Dyer County Invitational Tuesday – and watched five of them set PRs in the process.

Freshman Jose Aguirre continued his outstanding rookie season with an eighth-place finish in a PR of 18:15.88. Junior Uriel Diaz placed tenth, breaking 19 minutes for the first time with a run of 18:29.19. Nathan Bailey – another freshman – won his first high school medal, finishing 20th in a PR of 19:35.72, his first time under 20 minutes.

Senior Hutsen Stephens was 27th in 20:26.32. Then, in 30th place, freshman Gabe Williams went under 22 minutes for the first time, closing in 21:02.08. And junior Mase Utley, in 35th place, also broke the 22-minute barrier with a new PR of 21:34.74. Freshman Javier "JJ" Aguirre was 40th in 23:40.53 and sophomore Joseph Melendez was 44th in 24:13.98.

The team took fifth place overall. Union City captured the team title.

Crockett will run Thursday at the TCA Invitational in Jackson.

By Ron Barry



Above: After darkness arrived and with less than 90 seconds remaining in the match, Avery Thornton capped her soccer career with a goal. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: This sequence shows the value of teamwork in defending a corner kick. Goalkeeper Hannah Wede had the deflect the original shot, while Ruth Gourley and Braniya Green kept Dyersburg attackers from getting too close. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: But the ball appears to be open for a shot by Lady Trojan Reese Seratt (9), with only Crockett defender Kamilah Juarez (16) protecting the goal -- and she can't use her hands. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: The defensive play of Braniya Green (14) limited Dyersburg scoring opportunities, although the Lady Trojans still managed a flurry of shots on goal. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Quick-thinking Caroline Scruggs enters the fray and helps Braniya Green (14) keep the ball at bay as Hannah Wede hustles back into position ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: ... and Caroline Scruggs finally clears the ball out to keep the contest scoreless midway through the opening half. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Right: Kamilah Juarez (16) was another Crockett defender kept busy by the barrage of Dyersburg rushes. (Photo by Ron Barry)



By Ron Barry



Above: Another sticky situation came when goalie Hannah Wede came far out to try to get to the ball before Dyersburg's Meredith Zamzow (12), with Braniya Green backing her up ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... and Wede was able to dive onto the ball as Zamzow tried to put on the brakes. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Ruth Gourley (4) tries to deflect the ball away from Dyersburg scoring threat Haddy Manneh (10). (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Avery Thornton (13) -- along with several of her teammates -- will now take her running skills back to the cross-country team, just in time for Thursday's TCA Invitational in Jackson. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Three Cavs medaled at the Dyer County Invitational cross-country race (from left): Uriel Diaz, Jose Aguirre, and Nathan Bailey. (Photo by Julie Nass)



Above: The 93-degree day was showing on the face of Lady Cav defender Skyleigh Qualls. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Crockett's Wesley Thornton hopes to still be smiling after Thursday night's Sectional contest at Covington, with a State Tournament berth on the line. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Your Region 7-AA Volleyball Tournament runners-up. (Photo by CCHS Volleyball)