CROCKETT WIN OVER DYERSBURG TARNISHED BY SECOND-HALF LACK OF COMPOSURE



Above: DK Woods (32) finds running room: a theme for Crockett's win over Dyersburg. 25 carries, 209 yards, three touchdowns. (Photo by Ron Barry)

When does a convincing 39-21 win over a nearby rival NOT actually "feel" like a victory when it's over?

When a totally dominating first-half performance of solid football deteriorates into a second half that more closely resembles what might occur at a middle schoolers' sleepover.
And while you may not find the word "dumbness" in every available dictionary, Crockett County head coach Kevin Ward agreed that it's the perfect one to describe what he witnessed over the final two quarters of Thursday night's Cavalier game at host Dyersburg.
"Dumbness is a go
od way to sum it up," he said. "I'm a little dumbfounded myself, because I don't know where this came from. We haven't shown anything like this all season, so to see it now – in a game in which we did so many good things in the first half – is extremely disappointing. That is NOT what this program has ever been, is going to be now, or ever WILL be."

The behavior Ward is describing was a series of ridiculous pushing and shoving episodes ("personal fouls" in football talk), made even worse when the officiating crew simply ruled several of them as "offsetting penalties," which only encouraged the childish infractions to continue. Additionally, each flag thrown seemed to be accompanied by lengthy conversations among the crew that stretched the game to a playing time of nearly three hours.

And – to be clear – neither team can claim innocence from the lack of composure displayed.

"We preach the importance of playing with emotion, but NOT being emotional during games," Ward said. "We want our guys to be passionate about playing and executing well. But we do NOT ever want to see them reacting negatively to things done or said to them by opposing teams. And we've been good about it until now – that's what makes this so disappointing. But we'll address it completely before our next game, because it is NOT what we are going to be at Crockett County."

The second-half shenanigans – which led to the Cavs' accumulation of 100 yards in penalty assessment, even though some retaliations were not even marked off – took much of the satisfaction out of Crockett's effort in the first two quarters, in which the Cavs basically shut down Dyersburg's high-powered offense in such a way that when the Trojans had the ball and decent field position (their own 38) with two minutes remaining before the break, they didn't even try a concerted effort to score even though they were down only 19-7 at the time.

That enabled the Cavs – which had conserved their timeouts – to use the clock well enough to take another shot at the end zone themselves by forcing a Dyersburg punt.

It paid off, as speedy wide receiver Squirt Pickens turned a misdirection handoff play into a 76-yard dash for a touchdown, zigging and zagging in multiple angles across the field as he dodged tackle after tackle to cross the goal line with 0:00 showing on the scoreboard clock. Noah Mayfield's extra point made it 26-7 at the intermission and capped a dominant showing by the visitors.

That first half included numerous sizeable gains by running back DK Woods and a couple of touchdown passes by quarterback Ben Burgess – not to mention his 50 yards rushing on just four keepers – and a recovery by Carson Bridger of a Dyersburg fumble that set up another score.

Burgess found receiver Kris Phillips in the left corner of the end for an 18-yard completion to open the scoring with less than three minutes gone, finishing an 80-yard drive in five plays. After an exchange of punts, the Trojans answered with a 13-play, 98-yard drive that featured two long pass plays and a key 15-yard penalty against Crockett when one of the few late hits that wasn't rationalized into "offsetting penalties" was assessed. Dyersburg's Demond Dillard eventually got the touchdown from two yards out, and Jackson Duggan's extra point gave the hosts a 7-6 edge with 10:06 to play in the second quarter.

Those last ten minutes belonged convincingly to the Cavaliers. Woods carried six times and earned three first downs before Burgess broke a 24-yard scamper to the Trojan two. Woods took it in from there – his first of three scores on the night – and although a two-point conversion pass failed, Crockett regained the lead 12-7 with 6:02 still left.

On Dyersburg's next possession, the Cavs received a big quarterback sack from Khalan Thomas, forcing a third-and-long play on which Thomas was then able to strip the ball loose on a run up the middle by Logston Morgan. Bridger recovered it with 2:17 remaining at the Crockett 49.

Eight seconds and 51 yards later, Crockett's Titus Luten was celebrating in the end zone, having raced past the Trojan secondary to catch a bomb in stride from Burgess for the touchdown that made it 19-7.

After Pickens' long touchdown followed, the second half began much the way the first had ended. Woods gathered up a Quincy Terry fumble at the Dyersburg 36 and returned it to the 24, and then needed just two more carries to push the margin to 33-7 with 11:23 to go in the third quarter.

Then all the shenanigans began. During all the infantile pushing and shoving, the hosts scored twice on two sizeable drives – the touchdowns coming on a seven-yard reverse by Santavion Williams and a 23-yard toss from Morgan to Ty Seaton – to trim Crockett's lead to 33-21 with 8:21 remaining in the contest.

But on the ensuing possession – and despite four penalties for 45 yards marked off against them – the Cavs found the end zone again for the game-clincher, using a 50-yard pass play from Burgess to Pickens and four double-digit runs by Woods to set up the six-yard rumble by the senior back to make it 39-21.

Woods, finally making it through an entire game without a significant cramp or getting banged up from the significant amount of hits he takes from the multiple defenders it usually requires to get him on the ground, piled up 209 rushing yards on 25 carries and again established himself as one of West Tennessee's top runners. Both Woods and Burgess – who completed five of nine passes for 134 yards – benefitted from the blocking provided by linemen Bridger, Jayden Young, Ittai Fry, Nolen Turner, and Sebastian Garduno, along with occasional tight end Brody Jones.

The Cavs are off this week for Fall Break but return October 16 for their final regular-season home game against South Gibson County. Crockett is now 6-1 overall and still 3-1 in Region 7-4A action. Dyer County defeated Chester County and Jackson North Side pummeled Hardin County in other Thursday night region matchups.

Thursday, October 1
Game Statistics: Crockett 39, Dyersburg 21
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 42-478; DB 55-329.
First Downs: CC 14; DB 17.
Penalties-Yards: CC 8-100; DB 6-54. Punts-Yards-Avg: CC 3-121-40.3; DB 3-81-27.0.
Fumbles-Lost: CC 0-0; DB 2-2.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 25-209 (3 TDs), Squirt Pickens 1-76 (1 TD), Ben Burgess 4-50, Khalan Thomas 3-9, Team 33-344 (4 TDs). DB Rushing: Quincy Terry 13-67, Demond Dillard 7-66 (1 TD), Eric Funderburk 8-43, Logston Morgan 6-18, Ty'Marion Hill 2-10, Santavion Williams 1-7 (1 TD), Team 42-211.
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 5-9-134-0 (2 TDs). DB Passing: Morgan 6-13-118-0.
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Titus Luten 1-51 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 1-50, Kris Phillips 2-28 (1 TD), DK Woods 1-5. DB Receiving: Ty Seaton 4-73, Quincy Terry 2-45.
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): none. DB Pass Interceptions: none.
CC Fumble Recoveries: DK Woods 1-12, Carson Bridger 1-0. DB Fumble Recoveries: none.
CC Kickoff Returns (Returns-Yards): Squirt Pickens 1-2. DB Kickoff Returns: Cortez Barbee 1-29, Terry 1-23, Seaton 2-22, Hill 1-18, Bradley Price 1-(-5), Team 6-87.
CC Punt Returns: none. DB Punt Returns: Seaton 1-2.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): Woods 3-0-0-0-18, Pickens 1-0-0-0-6, Titus Luten 1-0-0-0-6, Kris Phillips 1-0-0-0-6, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-3-3, Team 6-0-0-3-39. DB Scoring: Dillard 1-0-0-0-6, Seaton 1-0-0-0-6, Williams 1-0-0-0-6, Jackson Duggan 0-0-0-3-3, Team 3-0-0-3-21.
The Linescore:
CC 6 20 7 6 - 39
DB 0 7 7 7 - 21
Crockett – Kris Phillips 18 pass from Ben Burgess (kick failed)
Dburg – Demond Dillard 2 run (Jackson Duggan kick)
Crockett – DK Woods 2 run (pass failed)
Crockett – Titus Luten 51 pass from Burgess (Noah Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Squirt Pickens 76 run (Mayfield kick)
Crockett – Woods 9 run (Mayfield kick)
Dburg – Santavion Williams 7 run (Duggan kick)
Dburg – Ty Seaton 23 pass from Logston Morgan (Duggan kick)
Crockett – Woods 6 run (kick failed)



Right: Another game, another long scoring bomb to receiver Titus Luten, who's averaging 33 yards a catch this season. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Season Statistics: Record 6-1 (Region 3-1)
Total Offense (Plays-Yards): CC 243-2,289; OPP 314-1,158.
First Downs: CC 69; OPP 63.
Penalties-Yards: CC 30-290; OPP 49-370. Punts-Yards-Avg: CC 9-349-38.8; OPP 28-660-23.6.
Fumbles-Lost: CC 11-4; OPP 16-7.
CC Rushing (Carries-Yards): DK Woods 79-791 (13 TDs), Squirt Pickens 7-198 (3 TDs), Ben Burgess 45-167 (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 193-1,636 (28 TDs). OPP Rushing: 229-715 (6 TDs).
CC Passing (Completions-Attempts-Yards-Interceptions): Ben Burgess 30-49-637-1 (13 TDs), Roman Barker 1-2-16-1 (1 TD), Team 31-51-653-2 (14 TDs). OPP Passing: 37-85-443-9 (4 TDs).
CC Receiving (Catches-Yards): Titus Luten 10-331 (6 TDs), Kris Phillips 7-131 (4 TDs), Squirt Pickens 4-77 (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 31-653 (14 TDs). OPP Receiving: 37-443 (4 TDs).
CC Pass Interceptions (Int-Yards): Mason Dennis 3-85 (1 TD), Ian Greenberg 1-58 (1 TD), Squirt Pickens 1-27 (1 TD), Kris Phillips 1-13, Brody Parlow 1-8, Brody Jones 1-6, Chris Mann 1-0, Team 9-197 (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: 40-628 (1 TD).
CC Punt Returns: Squirt Pickens 6-72, Khalan Thomas 1-21 (1 TD) from end zone recovery after punt block by Rylan Redding, Titus Luten 2-16, Team 9-109 (1 TD). OPP Punt Returns: 3-25.
CC Scoring (TD-2PC-FG-XP-Points): DK Woods 13-0-0-0-78, Titus Luten 8-0-0-0-48, Noah Mayfield 0-0-0-37-37, Squirt Pickens 5-0-0-0-30, Ben Burgess 4-0-0-0-24, Khalan Thomas 4-0-0-0-24, Kris Phillips 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 49-1-0-38-334. OPP Scoring: 11-0-0-9-75



Above: Quarterback Ben Burgess (10) leaps a Dyersburg tackler as blockers Brody Jones (11), Jayden Young (60), Nolen Turner (54), and Ittai Fry (57) clear the path. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Squirt Pickens -- with a 50-yard pass reception and a 76-yard run on his two offensive touches -- helped the Cavs amass 478 total yards on just 42 plays. (Photo by Ron Barry)





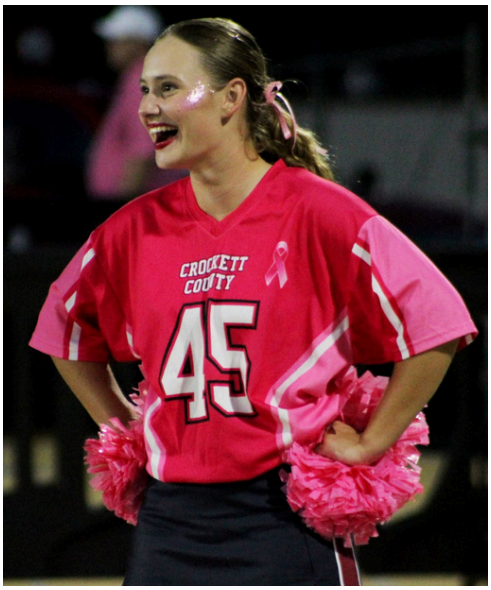
Right: Crockett cheerleader Jolee Hardin was ready to cheer on her Cavaliers during Thursday's "Pink-Out" to highlight the fight against cancer. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Brody Parlow (5) and Nolen Turner (54) team up to take down Dyersburg runner Quincy Terry. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: A diving touchdown reception by Kris Phillips (6) put the Cavs on the scoreboard before three minutes had even elapsed. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: While most Crockett students will be "Fall-Breaking" next week, senior cheerleader Rachel Crossnoe will be in Sevierville Monday and Tuesday as the first Lady Cav golfer to ever appear in the TSSAA State Tournament. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Another Brody -- Jones (11) this time -- prepares to stop Terry on a subsequent play. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Ian Greenberg (2) and -- actually below him -- Brody Jones (11) combine to bring down another Trojan back. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: On this Dyersburg kickoff return, Crockett's Davis Porter (9) slows down Trojan Ty Seaton while Cavs Jeremiah Young (1) and Peter Bosco (26) apply a crunch sandwich. Chris Vance (15) and Dontavious Forrest (33) are ready to assist if Seaton somehow escapes. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Cav QB Ben Burgess broke a pair of runs for 20+ yards each and threw for another 134 yards and two scores. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Khalan Thomas (20) contributed a big sack of Trojan QB Logston Morgan on this play and also forced a fumble on another play, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)



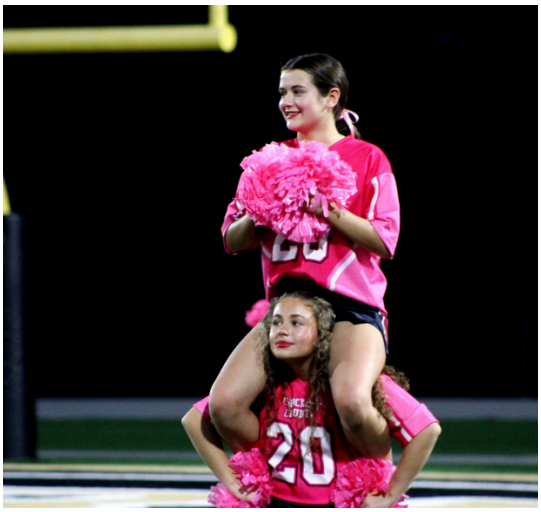




Above: ... which was pounced on by Carson Bridger (who can't be seen) in this pile. Grant Smallwood (77) and Thomas (legs flailing) were also fighting for the ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Above: Nolen Turner (54) and Jayden Young (60) are about to lower the boom on Dyersburg's Quincy Terry. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: Sarah Breland is lifted up by Emmie Pickens as the Crockett cheerleaders yell for the Cavaliers. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Below: Assistant coach Josh Holt confers with linebacker Brody Jones during a timeout. (Photo by Ron Barry)



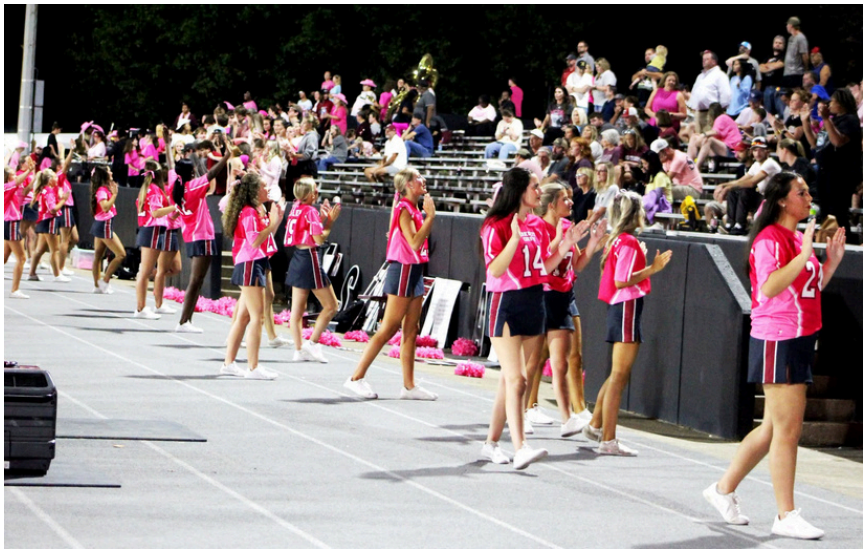
Above: DK Woods now has 13 rushing touchdowns on the season and now has accumulated 791 yards on 79 carries -- almost a perfect 10-yard-per-run average. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: DK Woods (32) rumbles with a fumble recovery while Dyersburg tacklers try everything -- even tugging on his undershirt -- to try to slow him down. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Brody Parlow and his teammates now have a week off before they begin practice for the final home game of the regular season vs. South Gibson on October 16. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Crockett's pink-clad cheer team was active all night for the Cavs despite the second-half on-field shenanigans between the football squads. (Photo by Ron Barry)