CROSS-COUNTRY TEAMS SEEKING TO MAKE SCHOOL HISTORY IN NEXT WEEK'S REGION MEET



Above: Runners in the Martin Invitational head out from the building area. (Photo by Cesia Sanchez)

Crockett County cross-country coach Julie Nass has been very upfront about her teams' goals all season.

And now – with only next week's Section 5 Region Championships remaining on the schedule – she knows her teams are right on the cusp of achieving them.

Crockett's runners closed their regular season Tuesday with the Martin Invitational – also the site of the Regional – so Nass got a pretty good idea of where the squads stand relative to the other contending teams. And while the Martin meet included some entries from schools that are not in Crockett's classification, the results showed that – with just a slight improvement in a couple of runners per team – the Crockett racers are right where they need to be to achieve school history next week.

"Crockett County has never had both the girls and the boys teams qualify for the State Championships in the same season," Nass said. "The boys are right on the edge now; they can see that it's possible. The goal for the girls is a little higher: we want to go to the State as the Sectional champion. And we're neck-and-neck with Obion County (the perennial West Tennessee Class AA powerhouse) right now."

Crockett is in Section 5 of the TSSAA's regional breakdown. The other schools in Section 5 are Bolivar Central, Chester County, Covington, Dyer County, Dyersburg, Hardin County, Haywood, Jackson North Side, Jackson South Side, Lexington, McNairy Central, Obion County, South Gibson County, and Westview. From the Regional Meet, the top four teams and the five best individual times by runners not on a qualifying team, advance to the State.

Some of the schools in Section 5 do not field full teams. With that said, Nass figures it's between Obion and Crockett for the top spot in the girls group. In the boys division, she feels her guys are fourth-ish right now but could reach third with a solid performance next week. That would send both teams to the State together for the first time.

Although it took the official race timers two days to post the official results, the Martin Invitational was the final tune-up for most of the teams. Crockett's girls finished fifth, but were only two points behind fourth-place Obion, which was the top Class AA unit in the field. Lady Cavalier junior Alivia Hale was the lone Crockett female to earn a medal, finishing in 18th place. However, nine other Lady Cavs posted their own personal records (PRs) in the race, including freshman Olivia Barger (27th) and sophomore Ruth Gourley (29th), who were Crockett's next-best finishers.

In the boys race, freshman Jose Aguirre continued his medal streak by placing 17th. Uriel Diaz was 23rd for the Cavs. One Crockett runner – JJ Aguirre – produced a new PR during the run.

The Section 5 Regional is scheduled for the Martin Soccer Complex at 5 p.m. next Tuesday. The complex is located next to Westview High School.



Above: Freshman Jose Aguirre continued his amazing medals streak. (Photo by Cesia Sanchez)

Martin Invitational Results:
Girls 5K Team Scores: (1) McKenzie 59; (2) USJ 97; (3) Dresden 97; (4) Obion County Central 104; (5) Crockett County 106; (6) Westview 151; (7) Millington Central 180; (Lexington 204; (9) Camden Central 222; (10) Brighton 223; (11) South Gibson County 237.

Girls Individual Top 20: (1) Hudson McDaniel, Dresden 18:52.68; (2) Alaina Uselton, Westview 19:07.65; (3) Abigail Wallace, McKenzie 19:38.68; (4) Corrie Mihalko, Millington 20:24.39; (5) Autumn Haywood, McKenzie 20:39.70; (6) Bailey Warbington, Dresden 20:53.07; (7) Hadley Haltom, USJ 20:58.51; (8) Peyton Oliver, Dresden 21:13.84; (9) Klicey Campbell, Obion Co 21:41.42; (10) Addyson Kirkland, USJ 21:47.86; (11) Marlee Jo Shell, Henry Co 22:07.11; (12) Ainsley Beard, Union City 22:11.38; (13) Julia Campbell, West Tennessee Home Education Association 22:16.81; (14) Stella Graham, Union City 22:18.42; (15) Eva Lewis, Lexington 22:18.94; (16) Ainsley Phillips, Westview 22:24.40; (17) Adley Thompson, Gibson Co 22:35.70; (18) ALIVIA HALE, Crockett Co 22:37.81; (19) Peyton Tharp, SGC 22:54.29; (20) Brylee Patrick, Union City 22:55.85. Other Crockett Finishers: (27) Olivia Barger 24:02.27 [PR]; (29) Ruth Gourley 24:25.54 [PR]; (33) Avery Thornton 24:36.53; (41) Anahy De La Rosa 25:12.44 [PR]; (46) Marley Thornton 25:44.46 [PR]; (49) Cesia Sanchez 25:55.71 [PR]; (52) Caroline Scruggs 26:02.97; (59) Hannah Wede 26:32.21 [PR]; (84) Catherine Scruggs 29:34.43 [PR]; (89) Isabella Aguirre 30:28.48 [PR]; (101) Britzel Perez 33:34.93 [PR]. Total Race Finishers: 108.

Boys 5K Team Scores: (1) Dresden 41; (2) Chester County 142; (3) Obion County Central 171; (4) South Gibson County 191; (5) Union City 200; (6) West TN Home Education Association 205; (7) McKenzie 211; (8) Huntingdon 219; (9) Crockett County 223; (10) Westview 225; (11) Millington Central 244; (12) Henry County 252; (13) Brighton 270; (14) Augustine 271; (15) Lexington 274; (16) Milan 348.

Boys Individual Top 20: (1) Deegan Arant, Greenfield 15:57.35; (2) Cael Mathis, Henry Co 16:07.15; (3) Vaughn Bounds, Dresden 16:34.89; (4) Brock Baskin, Brighton 17:11.05; (5) Carson Brownlow-Rendon, Dresden 17:13.31; (6) Miloh Turner, Union City 17:17.61; (7) Clay Pruett, SGC 17:21.69; (8) Miles Cary, Dresden 17:28.00; (9) Hollis Bates, Henry Co 17:28.97; (10) Madix Turner, Union City 17:38.22; (11) Alister Wallace, McKenzie 17:41.70; (12) Dominic Ledezma, Dresden 17:43.06; (13) Jackson Woodrough, Westview 17:56.56; (14) Liam Johnson, Augustine 18:07.85; (15) Jason McNair Jr, USJ 18:16.72; (16) Cal Fawcett, McKenzie 18:18.48; (17) JOSE AGUIRRE, Crockett Co 18:21.80; (18) Ian Hall, Chester Co 18:23.08; (19) Connor Evans, Dresden 18:26.75; (20) Easton Nelson, SGC 18:30.76. Other Crockett Finishers: (23) Uriel Diaz 18:37.60; (58) Nathan Bailey 19:54.62; (75) Hutsen Stephens 20:39.65; (76) Gabe Williams 20:40.80; (81) Jose Diaz 20:57.29; (95) Mase Utley 21:32.44; (119) JJ Aguirre 22:45.53 [PR]; (150) Joseph Melendez 25:16.05. Total Race Finishers: 163.



Left: Freshman Olivia Barger set a new PR and was second among the Crockett girls in Martin. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Ruth Gourley -- still just a sophomore -- was third among Crockett girls in Martin and also posted a PR. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Uriel Diaz strains to the finish line in Martin to place 23rd among more than 160 runners. (Photo by Cesia Sanchez)

