SCRAPPY LADY CAV SOCCER TEAM DROPS 4-3 DISTRICT HEARTBREAKER TO DYERSBURG



Above: Avery Thornton celebrates her match-tying goal at the 10:10 mark with teammates Caroline Scruggs (left) and Rebecca Waddey (right). (Photo by Ron Barry)

29 seconds.
That's all it took for Dyersburg's soccer team to turn contagious joy to a heartbreaking defeat for Crockett County Tuesday evening in Alamo.

The Lady Trojans – a much more physical team than the Lady Cavaliers – had strong-armed their way to a 3-1 lead in Cavalier Stadium with just 17:04 to play in the second half of their regular-season district matchup. But Coach Alex Taylor's Crockett crew wasn't ready to give up without a fight.

Sophomore Caroline Scruggs and junior Alivia Hale orchestrated a two-girl rush at the Dyersburg box 90 seconds later, and when the Lady Trojan goalkeeper tried to slide into the oncoming ball, Scruggs beat her to it, worked it around to her right, and casually punched it into the wide-open net to cut the margin to 3-2 with 15:28 remaining.

The teams traded moderate attacks over the next five minutes until Scruggs made another sudden rush that resulted in a deflection off the once-again sliding goalkeeper. This time, the rebound found senior Avery Thornton crashing in from the right side, and as she popped it into the net, the match was surprisingly tied up again at 3-3 at the 10:10 mark. Lady Cavs were hugging each other in celebration all over the field.

But then…
On the very next Dyersburg possession – and just 29 seconds after Thornton's goal – the Lady Trojans skied a high shot into the upper foot of the Crockett goal, barely over the outstretched hands of Crockett keeper Hannah Wede, and the visitors had a 4-3 lead that they would not relinquish over the game's final 9:41.

Dyersburg scored the game's initial goal at 27:32 of the first half when a shot from near the right corner zipped straight across the goal area about a foot in front of the goalposts. Wede leaped to try to catch it, but the ball glanced off her fingertips and turned just enough to hit the opposite post in such a way that it bounced into the net.

After more than 20 minutes had elapsed, Hale pounced on a cross from Thornton that took the goalie out of position, allowing the cross-country standout to drill the ball into the net at the 5:49 mark and tie the contest at 1-1. It remained that way to the halftime intermission.

Hale, Scruggs, and Thornton each had a goal and assist as the Lady Cav season record dropped to 5-6-2. Crockett closes out its regular season Thursday with a road match at Ripley.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL: Dyer County solidified another top-seed position for next week's district tournament, capturing a straight-set win over visiting Crockett County Tuesday night by scores of 25-15, 26-24, and 25-16. The Lady Choctaws will host the event on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday night.

The Lady Cavaliers season record is now 25-9. Crockett is scheduled to host its "Senior Night" and final regular-season match on Thursday evening against Lexington.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCCER: Despite a hat trick (three goals) by Kalynn Lewis, the Lady Cav middle schoolers saw their season end in the opening round of the regional tournament Monday when Paris Inman posted a 10-3 victory.

Paris Robinson assisted on two of the goals by Lewis, but CCMS did not have an answer for the powerful Inman attack. Kaylee Servin made seven saves in goal for Crockett, but Inman's offense was relentless.

"We did not play our best tonight (Monday)," said Coach Graham Mayfield, "but the girls have improved each week. They should be proud of how far they have come since we started practicing in July."



Above: Braniya Green (right) has been a steady factor for the Lady Cavs since switching to a defensive position to add speed to the back line. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Crockett goalkeeper Hannah Wede shouts out directions to her defenders during a Dyersburg rush Tuesday. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Kamilah Juarez readies for an inbounds pass in Tuesday's match with Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Alivia Hale and the Dyersburg goalkeeper were involved in several collisions together throughout Tuesday's contest. (Photo by Ron Barry)







Above: Avery Thornton maneuvers for position near the Dyersburg box on a sideline throw-in. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Alivia Hale (6) is congratulated by a swarm of teammates after scoring Crockett's first goal of the game against the Lady Trojans. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: This sequence shows that Crockett's second goal was a thing of beauty, beginning with Caroline Scruggs sidestepping the sliding goalie's attempt to break up the play. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Scruggs managed to steer the ball to the right as the last Dyersburg defender gets blocked off by her own keeper. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Once she cleared the traffic, Scruggs has never had an easier shot in her life, as she picks up some witnesses in the background -- some on posters, some behind the fence. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Right: As Scruggs casually punches it in, the celebration is about to begin. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Left: Using her knee, Olivia Barger (9) goes high to deflect a ball away from the Lady Cav goal as Skyleigh Qualls helps out nearer the net. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: Ruth Gourley moves a pass forward in Tuesday's duel with Dyersburg. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: With football players cheering in the background, Crockett's three goal scorers for the night -- Alivia Hale, Caroline Scruggs, and Avery Thornton -- head back upfield. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Chloe Campbell keeps a ball in along the sidelines during Tuesday's battle. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: Braniya Green battles a couple of Lady Trojans for control of the ball. (Photo by Ron Barry)

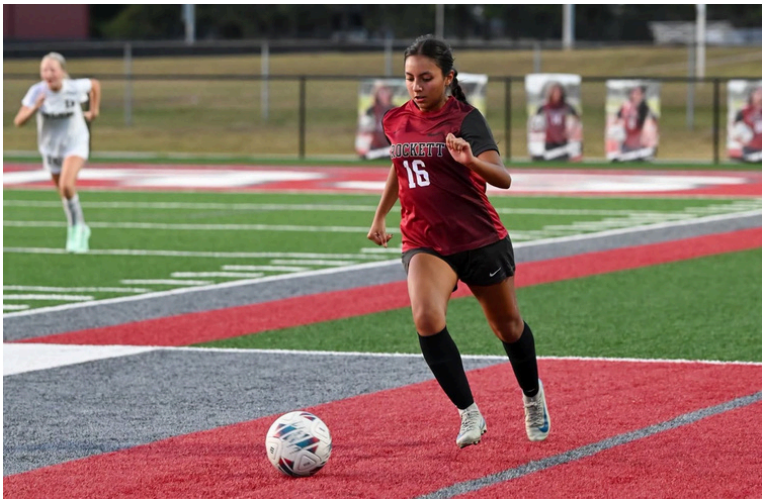


Below: Rebecca Waddey -- as usual -- draws most of the attention from the opposing team's defense. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Caroline Scruggs (1) gets a fast break going while Alivia Hale (6) gives a Dyersburg defender the side-eye, as if to say, "Don't even think about trying to break this up." (Photo by Ron Barry)



Above: Kamilah Juarez clears the ball from a Dyersburg attack and tries to get something going in the Lady Cavs' direction. (Photo by Robin Waddey)