LADY CAV GOLFERS, VOLLEYBALLERS MAKE CROCKETT COUNTY HISTORY; SOCCER TEAM ROLLS



Above: One of the most familiar sights in Crockett volleyball -- Lakyn Forsythe setting a hitter -- allowed her to break the all-time school record for career assists Monday night against TCA. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Golf remains one of the strangest sports on Planet Earth.
It's not because it's hard to understand. And while it may be (IS!) hard to master, people of all ages find ways to play it and (for the most part) enjoy it.

The "strange" parts are the outcomes and results.
For the latest local example: Crockett County's boys team has had a solid season, with definite hopes of advancing to region tournament play and – with a few breaks here and there – maybe to the TSSAA State Tournament. But Monday, after a disastrous showing in Humboldt, they didn't even make it out of the district. Not as a team, nor did any individual.

Crockett County's girls team has NEVER made it to the regional. A few individuals have slipped in along the way, but NEVER the team. Until Monday. On the same Humboldt course that was so unkind to the boys.

Coupled with the Lady Cavalier volleyballers' 25-10, 25-10, and 25-11 rout of Trinity Christian Academy Monday night – after which two individual players were honored for breaking all-time school records for career blocks and assists – it was a history-making day for Crockett County sports.

And the soccer team capped the night with a big road district win over Obion County Central in a game in which Rebecca Waddey – newly signed to begin collegiate play at Truett McConnell University in Georgia next year – scored two goals and dished out three assists.

This all followed a Saturday on which Coach Duke Kail's Crockett County Middle School softball team won all three of its season-ending tournament games, but was declared second-place finishers despite owning the event's best run differential. First place was awarded to University School of Jackson, the other 3-0 team, because it yielded the fewest runs to its opponents. USJ squeaked past two of their foes by one and two runs, respectively, while Crockett won all three of its games by at least three runs.

The Monday sports roundup follows...

HIGH SCHOOL GOLF: Senior Rachel Crossnoe carded an 86 for a sixth-place overall finish and partnered with Alyssa Stricklin (who finished 11th with a 102) to secure a third-place team showing and Crockett's first-ever regional tournament berth as a group. Emmalynn Medlin (who shot a 112) will join them next Monday in Memphis at The Links at Pine Hill, a renovated public course near the downtown area.

South Gibson County captured the girls team championship, anchored by medalist Marleigh Chicantek, who defied the intense heat to post a 69 – fully 10 shots ahead of runner-up Nora Manley of Madison Academic.
On the boys side, Dyer County used th
e medalist play of Beau Thurman (71) and the bunching of Jarrett Harrison (75), Jamison Rhodes (76), and Miller Williams (81) to total a 303 and defeat Dyersburg by eight strokes. Jackson South Side's Wyatt Guthrey (73) was the individual runner-up to Thurman.

The surprise was Crockett's lineup being shut out from any advancement, including senior #1 position player Jack Shaver, who has matched rounds with the district's top players all season. Shaver double-bogeyed the opening hole but looked like he was righting the ship with a birdie at #5 until coming unglued at the normally pedestrian 8th hole. While his back nine score improved, he ended up missing an individual advancement by one shot.

"I'm beyond sad for Jack and the way his high school career ended today," said Coach Pate Randall. "He battled adversity with injury this year but fell one shot short of a playoff for the last spot. Sometimes this game can crush you; sometimes it just isn't fair. But he is going to do good things and he's a fine young man with a great family."

On the flip side, Randall was thrilled that his girls squad made history as the first to advance as a unit. And while he knows the competition will be keen in Memphis, he believes Crossnoe – if she plays reasonably well – has a legitimate shot at a State berth.

"I would love to see her go," he said. "She's worked hard at golf and her Dad is one of the best parents any coach could ask for. Actually, they all are. I'm blessed to be coaching here."

District 13 Golf Tournament at Humboldt

Girls Team Scores (top 3 teams advance to Region Tournament): (1) South Gibson 149, (2) Madison Academic 173, (3) Crockett County 188, (4) Dyersburg 198, (T-5)Dyer County and Ripley 203, (7) Covington 216, (Peabody 308.

Girls Individual Scores (top 5 girls not on a qualifying team also advance): (1) Marleigh Chicantek*, SGC 69; (2) Nora Manley*, Madison 79; (3) Anna Claire Hardin*, SGC 80; (T-4) Taylor Burks*, Ripley and Sophie Ingle*, SGC 81; (6) Rachel Crossnoe*, Crockett 86; (7) Margaret Manley*, Madison 94; (8) Halle Flagg*, Dyer Co 98; (T-9) Stella Madden*, Dyersburg and Cally Cook*, Dyersburg 99; (11) Alyssa Stricklin*, Crockett 102; (12) Molly Roberts*, Dyer Co 105; (T-13) Whitten Matthews, Covington and Miles Pinson, Madison 106; (15) Hartley Howard, Covington 110; (16) Emmalynn Medlin*, Crockett 112; (17) Mady Carter, Ripley 122; (18) Avery Hickman, Dyer Co 125; (19) Ava Turner, Halls 127; (20) Gracie Langston, Peabody 152; (21) Emree Rachels, Peabody 156. (Asterisks denote all advancing players.)

Boys Team Scores (top 3 teams advance to Region Tournament): (1) Dyer County 303, (2) Dyersburg 311; (3) Madison Academic 338, (4) Gibson County 350, (T-5) Crockett County and South Gibson 353, (7) Jackson South Side 364, (8) Peabody 422.

Boys Individual Scores (top 5 boys not on a qualifying team also advance): (1) Beau Thurman*, Dyer Co 71; (2) Wyatt Guthrey*, South Side 73; (T-3) John David Morris*, Dyersburg and John Sage*, Covington 74; (T-5) Jarrett Harrison*, Dyer Co and Jacob Ragan*, Madison 75; (7) Jamison Rhodes*, Dyer Co 76; (T-8) Brett Horner*, Dyersburg and Colin Pack*, Gibson Co 78; (T-10) Ryan Wesson*, Dyersburg and Isaac Scherer*, SGC 79; (T-12) Jayce Ellerbrook*, Dyersburg and Will Hendren*, SGC 80; (T-14) Miller Williams*, Dyer Co and Jack Shaver, Crockett 81; (16) Trey Perkins*, Madison 82; (17) Brock Browning*, Madison 83; (18) Caden Thurman, Ripley 84; (19) Parker Greer, Peabody 85; (T-20) George Randall, Crockett and Clay Kail, Crockett and Kade McDaniel, Gibson Co 87; (23) Landon Pipkin, Halls 88; (24) Parrish Crihfield*, Dyersburg 89; (25) Caiden Lewis, South Side 90; (26) Lucas Pickard, Gibson Co 92; (T-27) Brox Renfroe, Gibson Co; Jaden Hanna*, Dyer Co; and Jack Tritt, SGC 93; (30) Connor Cox, Ripley 94; (31) Ty Benson, South Side 95; (32) Chandler Abbott, Gibson Co 96; (33) Preston Lee, Peabody 97; (T-34) Gage Dillon*, Madison and Myles Perkins, Crockett 98; (T-36) Jack Hughes, SGC and Jackson Strickland, SGC 101; (38) Brock Kirkpatrick, Ripley 102; (T-39) Trice Mullins*, Madison; Max Woods, Crockett; and Weston Mobley, South Side 106; (42) Drake Parchman, South Side 108; (43) Sam Duncan, Peabody 118; (44) Branson Ash, Peabody 122; (45) Stephen Brewster, Halls 126; (46) Ty Aultry, Peabody 130.

HIGH SCHOOL VOLLEYBALL: Coach Andrew Laman's Lady Cavs blistered TCA decisively Monday night, and while the Lady Lions weren't the most formidable foe Crockett has faced this season, Laman's club performed almost flawlessly throughout all three sets, rarely making errors of any kind and finishing off an extremely high percentage of kill opportunities.

Add in the service game of Carmen Claybrooks – who went on several lengthy runs throughout the contest – the smashes of Wesley Thornton and Madi Collins, the acrobatic digs of Addie Davidson and Nataly Amador, and the record-breaking sets of Lakyn Forsythe, and the effort was one of the best of the season for the hosts.

Afterward, Laman honored Collins for the career block record she set last week and then spotlighted Forsythe, who – as a junior with a season-and-a-half still to go in her career – toppled the CCHS assists mark previously held by the accomplished standout Bailey Ann Whitby just a few years ago. Crockett broke a rare three-match losing streak and will host a big district match Tuesday night against South Gibson.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER: Six different Lady Cavs reached the scoring column for Coach Alex Taylor's crew hammered Obion County with a nine-goal barrage.

Waddey headed the charge with a pair of goals and three assists, but she was ably supported by Ruth Gourley (two goals and an assist), Caroline Scruggs (two goals), Avery Thornton (a goal and two assists), and single-goal netters Kate Davis and Alivia Hale.

The Lady Cavs improved to 4-5-2 on the season and are scheduled to host Ripley Tuesday night at 5:30 on the grass field next to Cavalier Stadium.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SOFTBALL: The CCMS softballers played the season-ending tournament Saturday in Lexington and won their side of pool play, defeating Adamsville 8-4, Decatur County 10-2, and Chester County 5-2. USJ went 3-0 on the other side of the pool play and did allowing less runs, giving the Lady Bruins the championship. But Crockett's runner-up placement tied a nice bow on a five-game winning streak to close the season with a 10-6 mark.

Against Adamsville, Brenley Hazlewood collected two double and a single and drove in four runs and Mahaley Hicks was 3-for-3. Against Decatur County, Abbey McAnulty smacked two hits, drove in two runs, and was the winning pitcher as well. Against Chester County, Hicks knocked in two runs and Piper Ledford provided the pitching win.



Above: Rachel Crossnoe shot an 86 Monday, good for sixth place overall in the District Tournament in Humboldt and the pacesetter for qualifying the Lady Cavalier team for the Region Tournament for the first time in school history. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Cavalier senior Jack Shaver attacks his tee shot on the par-three third hole at Humboldt during Monday's district tournament. Shaver ended up missing advancement to next week's regional by a single stroke. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Right: Addie Davidson's energy and acrobatic digs were on display in fine form Monday night as Crockett easily disposed of TCA on the volleyball court. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Madi Collins is all smiles as Nataly Amador congratulates her on adding another stuff to the school record for career blocks that she had already set last week. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Avery Thornton (right) is congratulated by (left to right) Caroline Scruggs, Alivia Hale, and Ruth Gourley after scoring a goal against Obion County Monday night in Troy. Thornton also had two assists in Crockett's district soccer win. (Photo by Robin Waddey)



Below: When Caroline Neal entered the match for the Lady Cavs, she didn't have to do much besides watch Carmen Claybrooks over her shoulder, because the senior was serving so well. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Alyssa Stricklin finished in 11th place Monday at the district event, and her score of 102 added to Rachel Crossnoe's 86 gave the Lady Cavs third place in the team standings and their first-ever berth in a regional. (Photo by Ron Barry)







Above: When these two besties -- Wesley Thornton and Lakyn Forsythe -- start talking to each other between points, ... (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: ... all the people watching from the stands wish they could eavesdrop, because the story is going somewhere dramatic or hilarious. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Jentry Elmore readies for a Lady Lion serve. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Left: Carmen Claybrooks had several spectacular, lengthy runs of service Monday night, one of the keys to defeating TCA. (Photo by Ron Barry)

Below: Lola Bailey was effective from the front row Monday night with several well-placed tips and drop shots. (Photo by Ron Barry)



Below: Nataly Amador found it somewhat amusing that Crockett was having an outlandish success rate on its kill attempts Monday night. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Wesley Thornton rips a power slam through two TCA frontline defenders. (Photo by Ron Barry)

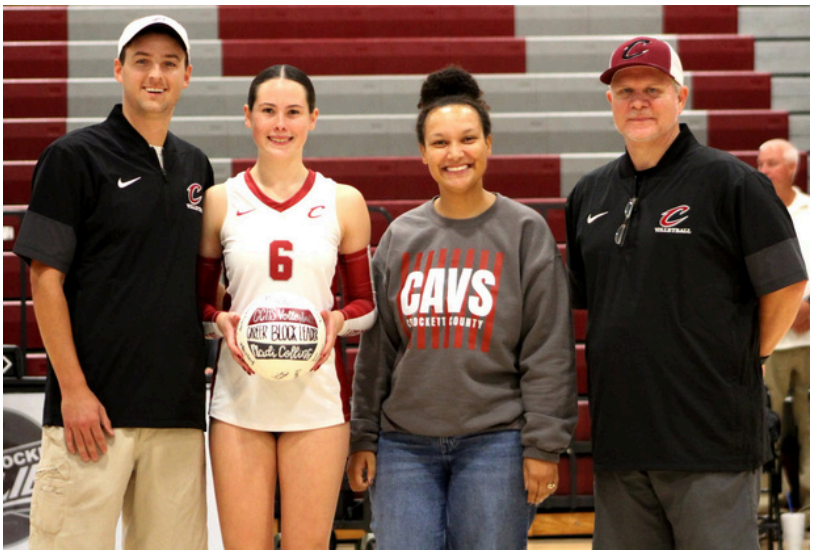
Below: Sophomore Ruth Gourley scored two goals and also had an assist against Obion County on the soccer pitch Monday night. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

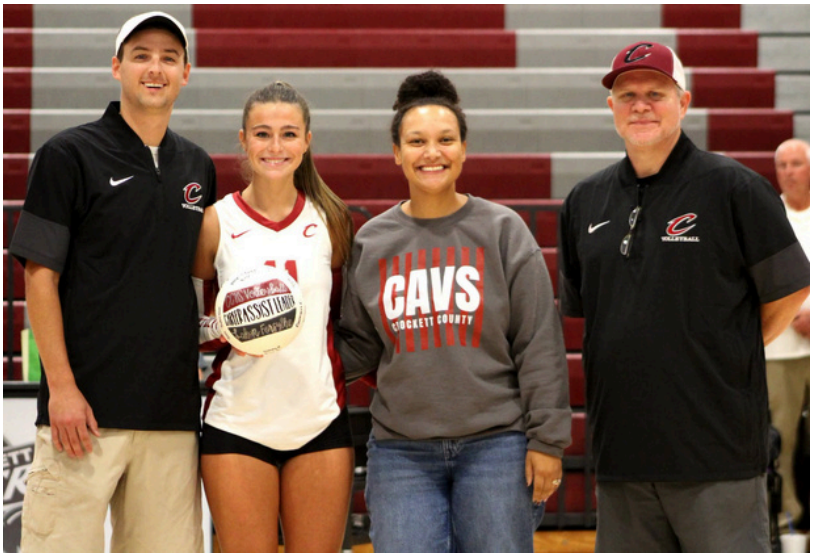




Above: Kate Davis (19) punches a shot past Obion's goalkeeper, becoming one of six Lady Cav players to score in the lopsided contest. (Photo by Robin Waddey)

Below: At the conclusion of the match, Madi Collins -- the new career blocks leader -- was honored by coaches (left to right) Andrew Laman, Lanie Mosier, and Bobby Rawson. (Photo by Ron Barry)





Above: Those same coaches then honored Lakyn Forsythe for setting the school record for career assists -- and the junior still has a season-and-a-half to go. (Photo by Ron Barry)