

Chickamauga Replay

By

J.L. Robert

Setup

Some unusual rules with Trails, stacking restrictions and reinforcement columns. Initial impressions are that it's going to be an interesting game, with both sides looking to race units off the same corner of the board. The Union forces are significantly outnumbered at the start; their meager starting units must hold off a massive surge of Confederate troops until reinforcements arrive.

Thanks again to Pete Belli for providing a photo of the game's initial setup.

Turn 1

Turn 1 has a lot of maneuver, but no combat. The few Union pieces take to the Rough terrain, hoping to use the defensive bonuses to hold off the upcoming Confederate assaults.

The CSA forces, however, are slowed by Trails and Woods. Rather than risk low-odds attacks, they bring forward their units in numbers, hoping to overwhelm the US troops on the next turn.



Turn2

As reinforcements on both sides start to stream onto the battlefield, the advances by Gracie's and Trigg's Brigades are halted while Union troops continue to organize further north.

Confederate cavalry pursue the Union withdrawal in the north while the numbers continue to mass in the center and south. Instead of engaging, Southern brigades attempt to shoot the gap between the Union center and right flank. A low-odds attack forces Union troops off the defensive terrain in the board's center.



Turn 3

U.S. forces engage the leading elements of the Confederate advances. Encircled, the Confederates earn an Ex result. Brown's and Kelly's Brigades are eliminated, taking the first 2 brigades of the XXI Corps 3rd Division with them. But their screening attack is a disastrous Ar result, isolating 2 other Union brigades.

The bulk of the Confederate troops now engage Union forces along Lafayette Road. The isolated units of the XXI Corps

are surrounded and eliminated with a 3-1 attack. Forrest and his cavalry continues to pressure the Union defenders in the north.



Turn 4

Union counterattacks along Lafayette Road temporarily drive back the attackers. But the pickets in the north continue to withdraw from the onrushing CSA cavalry in the north.

The straggling Union units along Chickamauga Creek are encircled and destroyed, as is one of the defending US brigades in the center. But the Confederates are still unable to breach the line along the road.



Turn 5

In the north, the retreating Union forces turn and attack Forrest's cavalry forces while new reinforcements engage to

slow the Confederate advance in the south. A daring combination of 1-1 attacks envelops Deas' and Manigault's Brigades, and the desperate 1-3 attack rolls a "1" for a Dr result, eliminating both! The US troops along Lafayette Road hold their ground, and the situation in the south appears to have stabilized. But the attack against the Confederate cavalry does not succeed.

The Confederates engage across the entire line and encircle one of the harassing US brigades in the north. While that unit, a detached brigade of the XIV Corps is eliminated, 3 other brigades are similarly destroyed in two separate 3-1 assaults. But not all results are in the Confederates' favor; Law's and Maney's Brigades are lost in a 1-2 diversionary attack, and other attacks against the Union reinforcements in the south are unsuccessful.



Turn 6

The Union troops resume falling back into deeper defensive lines while their cavalry forces arrive onto the battlefield. One attack eliminates Clayton's Brigade, and the last defenders of the road continue to hold out.

The first Confederate units break through the Union lines, while others surround additional units of the XIV Corps. But

the 2-1 attack fails. However, a 1-2 attack in the south is successful, encircling 2 Union brigades.



Turn 7

The US Supply Train enters the board with the Union forces forming a thin, but secure, defensive line protecting it. Their attacks are inconclusive.

CSA forces begin to flood through the gap in the Union lines. Polk's Brigade, isolated, falls in a 1-5 desperation attack. While Adams, Helm and Stovall all are shattered in an Ex result against 2 Union brigades.



Turn 8

Union forces pull up stakes and provide rear guard for the Supply Train against the pursuing Confederates. Blue brigades close in on the forward Confederate troops from multiple sides, wiping out FOUR brigades (Liddell, Walthall, Fulton and Strahl). A fifth, Humphrey's Brigade, also falls, but takes out a Union cavalry brigade with the Ex result.

The Confederates try to press the Union line before night falls. But other than an Ex result that eliminates a Union cavalry brigade (at the cost of Trigg's Brigade), their attacks are mostly unsuccessful. Forrest leads an attack that eliminates a surrounded Union brigade.



Turn 9

During the Night turn, both sides prepare their ZOC's to prepare for the next day. The Confederates are unable to deny the Union Supply Train a path off the map, so they withdraw in good order from Snodgrass Hill rather than risk encirclement in the morning.

A quick check on the score shows a mere 7 point difference.



Turn 10

The Union Baggage Train leaves while the remaining combat units fall back to make their last stand at McFarland Gap. The Confederates march *en masse* back towards Snodgrass Hill. 2 brigades of XX Corps are encircled and eliminated,

but 3 Confederate brigades (Deshler's, Anderson's and Bates') are destroyed in 1-2 diversionary attacks.



Turn 11

Union forces come down upon the Confederate cavalry attempting to break through McFarland Gap. Robertson's Brigade and Armstrong's Cavalry are taken out of the fight, but earn an exchange to take out 2 Union brigades with

them. Morgan's Cavalry is surrounded and eliminated.

CSA forces drive forward to force the Union troops of Snodgrass Hill. While the 1-2 attack in the center succeeds to encircle 4 Union units, both subsequent attacks fail! But the last of the pickets holding back Forrest's cavalry finally falls.



Turn 12

As the battle winds down, Union troops try to disengage to withdraw. McNair's Brigade is overwhelmed but secures an Ex result. The remaining US troops on Snodgrass Hill turn towards the units that encircled them last turn. The Confederates, now encircled themselves, do not fare as well as their opponents the previous turn; Gregg's and Jackson's Brigades are both lost.

Forrest's cavalry forces escape off the map, scoring 150 points for the Confederates! Meanwhile, the remaining Confederates are committed to McFarland Gap. The Union forces are surrounded on Snodgrass Hill, and 3 Union brigades are eliminated. But Gist's and Smith's Brigades disintegrate from a 1-2 attack.



Turn 13

Union troops continue to withdraw, leaving screening forces to try to allow as many units as possible to escape.

However, the Confederates rush in hoping to breach the Union lines somewhere to allow additional units to exit. 2

more Union brigades are surrounded and eliminated on Snodgrass Hill.



Turn 14

The first Union forces withdraw from the battlefield. The remaining units set up lines of defense to prevent the Confederates from exiting.

The Confederate advance encircles 3 more Union brigades. But while one attack eliminates a Union cavalry unit, the other two infantry brigades withstand the Confederate assault.



Turn 15

On the final turn, two Union artillery units are held back to screen the remaining mobile units. The encircled two

brigades fail to escape their encirclement and are eliminated in a 1-3 attack.

Confederate troops bring their full weight against the screening artillery. Both attacks see high odds, and both roll high results. In two Exchanges, Wilson's Brigade and Crews' Cavalry are selected for the Confederate losses.

The battle is over, with Confederate troops ready to move forward towards Chattanooga. But the Union delaying tactic denies the Confederates the VPs for holding the crossroads at McFarland Gap.



Totaling up the scores:

CSA-145 Union casualty VP's + 150 Exit VP's + 35 Occupation VP's = 330 Total VP's

USA-119 Confederate casualty VP's + 35 Exit VP's = 154 Total VP's

Another Confederate victory in my replay series!

Analysis

This was a gritty little fight. I'm sure I've made mistakes, and that I will learn some other tactics with repeated play. The Union forces were never able to fully secure their battle lines, especially once the Confederate reinforcements arrived to add additional pressure on the line.