

SPORTS B

Perfect start

DUANE SHERRILL

News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

The DeKalb County Tiger baseball team finished its first week on the diamond with a perfect record.

DeKalb County Tigers took their opener with a 6-1 win against visiting Gordonsville in non-district action. Things looked bleak in the early going for the home-standing Tigers as the visitors got things going in the first inning with an Adam Goolsby RBI double to give them a 1-0 lead which they held until the bottom of the fifth. That's when the Tiger bats came alive, plating six runs.

The Tigers scattered 11 hits in the game. Pitcher John Maynard helped his cause by going two-for-three and driving in one run. Skyler Sparks and Lee Randolph both went two-for-three with two RBIs to lead the Tigers.

Maynard was credited with the win from the mound for the Tigers. He pitched six innings, allowing one run on one hit while fanning 10. Hunter Jennings threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen. Gordonsville managed just one hit, that being Goolsby's first-inning double, during the contest although they were aided by three Tiger errors and five free passes by walks.

Hunter Davis started the game for Gordonsville. He surrendered five runs on seven hits before being pulled after four and a third innings. He struck out five and walked one. Joey Parliment threw one and two-thirds innings out of the bullpen.

The Tigers' winning ways continued

into their next game against non-district foe Cascade March 15 as they won 7-2, again coming back after trailing early.

Cascade opened up scoring in the first inning with a two-run blast. They enjoyed their lead until the fourth inning when the Tiger bats came alive, plating four runs to take a 5-2 lead, a lead which they never surrendered. It was during the fourth Colter Norris singled on a 3-1 count, scoring one run. His heroics at the plate were followed up when Logan Cornelius went downtown facing a full count, sending a three-run blast out of the park. They added some window dressing in the sixth, posting two more runs for the final score.

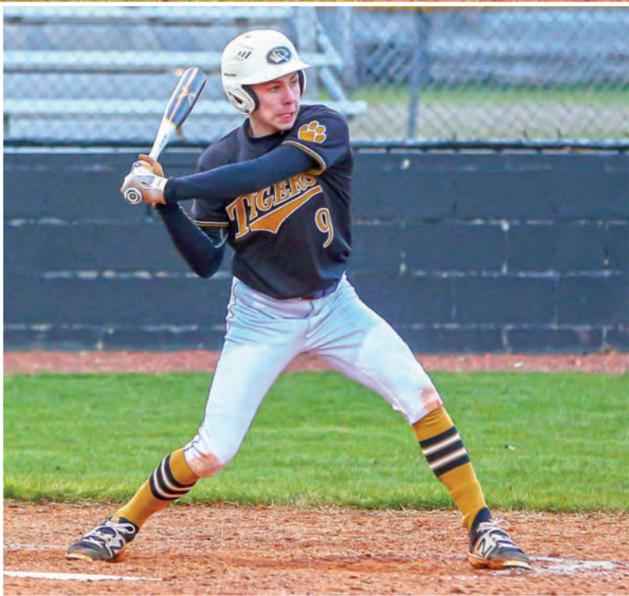
Hunter Jennings led things off on the rubber for DeKalb County Tigers Varsity. He lasted six innings, allowing two hits and two runs while striking out eight and giving no free passes.

DeKalb County Tigers Varsity scattered 11 hits in the game, far outshooting Cascade which managed just two runs while aiding the Tigers by making three errors. Lee Randolph and Cornelius each collected two hits to lead DeKalb. The Tigers were perfect in the field as they did not commit a single error in the field.

The Tigers were to open the season against Grundy County but bad weather forced a rescheduling of that game until April 25.



Jacob Dodd photos
DeKalb County pitcher Hunter Jennings struck out eight while helping the Tigers start the season with a pair of wins.



Colter Norris eyes an incoming slider during the Tigers' season opener against Gordonsville. The Tigers fell behind in both their opening games only to come back and win going away in the latter innings. The team's third game of the season was postponed due to weather.



Paxton Butler hustles down the first base line after hitting a shot in the Tigers' home opener against Gordonsville. The Tigers started the regular season a perfect 2-0, winning both in come from behind fashion. They are eyeing a run at the district title this season.

Lady Saints blanked in Warren County

JEFFERY SIMMONS

Special to the Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee



Jeffery Simmons photos
Emma Johnson fires a strike during Thursday's matchup with Warren County. Johnson pitched two solid innings of relief in an 8-0 loss to the Lady Pioneers.

Sarah Jacobs found herself doing something she thought she'd never do Thursday. Jacobs, the new coach of the DeKalb County Lady Saint softball team, walked into the opposing dugout at the Warren County High School softball field.

The former Lady Pioneer led her Lady Saints into Warren County, but fell 8-0 against the streaking Lady Pioneers.

"Never in a million years would I thought I'd be on my field, where I was in the home dugout for six years, in another team's colors," said Jacobs following the loss. "I had mixed emotions. I was really pleased with our defense and Emma Johnson did a great job in relief.

"They hit the ball well in the second inning. We just need to get the bats back and we'll be in good shape."

After piling up 19 runs in its prior two games, the Lady Saints were blanked by the Lady Pioneers, who banked their fifth straight win with Thursday's victory.

The difference came in the second inning, when Warren County erupted for seven runs to take control. Johnson entered in the third and helped hold the high-powered Lady Pioneers to just one more run.

DeKalb County wasn't able to mount a comeback though. The Lady Saints finished with just four hits, two coming in the final inning as Katie Colwell and Bri Murphy each singled. They were both stranded on a game-ending strikeout, one of eight times the Lady Saints were fanned at the plate.

KP Polk added a single in the second, while Jacey Hatfield had a single in the fourth.



Katie Colwell snags a pop up at first base. Colwell had one of her team's four hits in last week's loss in Warren County.