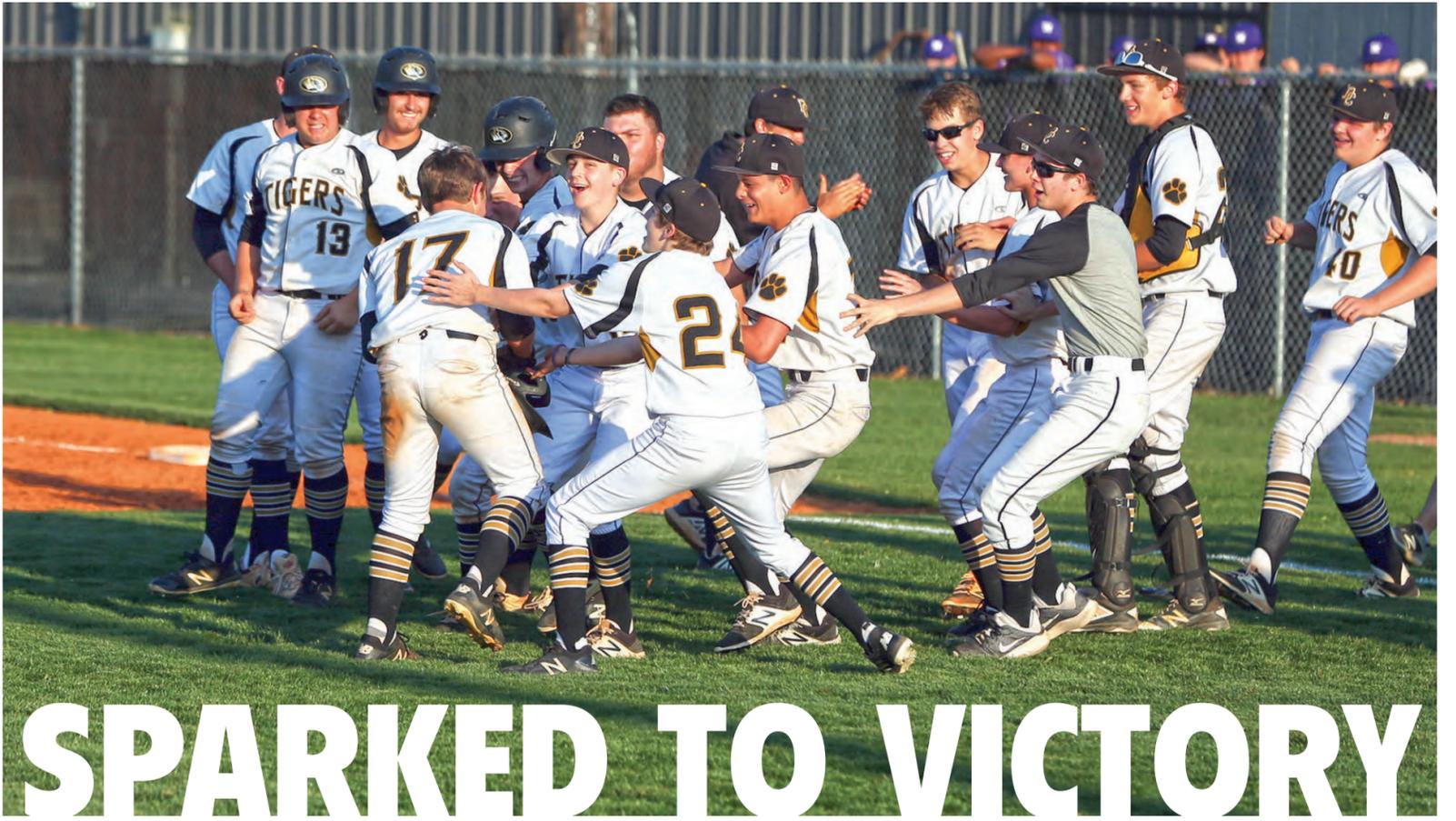


## SPORTS B



Jacob Dodd  
photos

**Tyler Sparks (17)** is mobbed by his teammates after his seventh-inning hit lifted his team to victory in walk-off fashion Monday evening, sending the Tigers to the district semi-finals.

At right, **Colter Norris** came in to relieve starter **John Norris** who threw 119 pitches in the Tigers' 2-1 win over Upperman in the second round of the district tournament.



## Walk-off hit sends Tigers to semi-finals

**DUANE SHERRILL**  
News/Sports Smithville Review  
Smithville, Tennessee

Sparks flew in the second round of the district baseball tournament as Tiger slugger Skyler Sparks lifted his team to victory with a walk-off hit Monday night, assuring his squad a trip to the semi-finals.

The game stood knotted in the bottom of the seventh when Sparks came to the plate. The pitchers' battle saw Tiger ace John Maynard hurl 119 pitches from the mound, one short of the state's limit for high school pitchers. He was relieved by Colter Norris in the seventh, with Norris able to hold the lead going into the bottom of the frame. The Upperman Bees, unable to cross the plate in their half of the seventh, rested their hopes on fanning Sparks and leaving Grayson Redmon stranded on base. However, the Bees hopes were dashed as Sparks laced his game

winning hit, sending Redmon home for the 2-1 win.

"Those are the kind of games you will remember for a long time," admitted Tiger Coach Adam Kefauver of the thrilling ending played out in front of the home fans. "It's fun to play in those games and it's fun to coach in those games."

The win sent the Tigers ahead in the winners bracket for a show down with either Cannon County or Watertown Tuesday evening with the winner of that game to advance to the finals of the double-elimination district tournament.

"We're one step closer but not there yet," the skipper cautioned, setting his sights on winning the district tournament and getting a high draw in the state regionals.

The Tigers advanced to the second round by blanking York Institute 11-0 in the opening round Friday evening. The game featured a grand slam homerun off the bat of Logan Cornelius.

## Tigerettes clobber Cannon County

**DUANE SHERRILL**  
News/Sports Smithville Review  
Smithville, Tennessee

The district tourney couldn't have started better for the Tigerettes as they pounced on the Cannon County Lady Lions, mauling the visitors 12-1 in the first round Friday evening.

The Tigerettes never trailed as they scored two in the first and six in the second before the Lady Lions plated their only run in the third inning. Four more runs for the home team in the bottom of the fourth was all it took to complete the opening-round rout.

DeKalb outthit their guests by a count of nine to two with Kenzie France hitting a dinger while Megan Walker, Allison Maynard and Kristena Bain all had double baggers for the Tigerettes. Joni Robinson had two hits while Cannon didn't help itself in the field with two errors. Emme Caldwell was credited with the win from the pitching circle, which was the third over Cannon this season as the Tigerettes outscored the Lady Lions by a count of 41-2 in the trio of meetings. Had Cannon County been able to pull off the upset, it would have marked their first win of the season as the Lady Lions stood at 0-18 entering Friday night's contest, tied with Smith County (0-15) at the bottom of the standings.

DeKalb finished the regular season second in the district, going 11-3 in the district and 18-11 overall. Two of their three losses were to top-seeded Upperman which was perfect in district play.



Photo provided

It was senior night this past week for the state's number-one ranked soccer squad, the DeKalb Tigers. From left are Assistant Coach Rhonda Merriman, Daniel Munoz, Carlos Garcia, Dylan Easterwood, Cesar Coronilla, Cristobal Flores, Roberto Sanchez, Pablo Juarez and Coach Dylan Kleparek.

## Soccer seniors successful

State's top team completes perfect district season, earns top seed

**DUANE SHERRILL**  
News/Sports Smithville Review  
Smithville, Tennessee

The top ranked DeKalb soccer team was scheduled to begin its march to a possible state title Tuesday evening as the team was set to host the district

tournament in Smithville.

The Tigers finished their perfect district season with wins over Macon County, 3-2, and Livingston Academy, 3-0, this past week, leaving them as undisputed district champions and top seed in the district tournament. They went 12-1 overall, falling only to

King's Academy back on March 17 in the Smoky Mountain Cup pre-season tournament. Their season has left them ranked the number one AA soccer team in the state.

A win Tuesday night would advance DeKalb into the district championship game here Thursday night.