

SMITHVILLE SPORTS

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Duane Sherrill photo

Luke Bryant is pursued by an Upperman player as he attacks on offense under the watchful eye of the line judge during the finals of the district tournament. The game ended in a 0-0 tie and remained scoreless through four overtime frames. Top ranked DeKalb County, which had beaten Upperman in its two prior meetings, was defeated on its home pitch for the title when the game was decided by penalty kicks. The Tigers traveled to Loudon for regional action Tuesday night.

Upset by Upperman

No. 1 Tigers fall in district finals

DUANE SHERRILL
News/Sports Smithville Review
Smithville, Tennessee

The top-ranked DeKalb Tigers had owned the rival Upperman Bees during the regular season, beating them 5-1 and 6-1 in regular season games last month. So, when it came to hosting the district championship last Thursday night, with a top seed

it comes to rivalry games, you can throw records out the window.

With an atmosphere more akin to the gridiron under the Friday night lights than soccer on

Thursday night, the clubs put on a high energy show,

keeping the fans on their feet for most of the night

as the teams traded attacks on the pitch.

Unlike the earlier meetings, the Tigers were un-

able to score the early goal as both teams sported aggressive defenses,

keeping the lion's share of the game played in the

midfield, offering very few

shots on goal.

The physical play left both teams knotted at 0-0 at the end of two 40-minute halves, a Cristobal Flores prayer from way out just nicking the crossbar near the end of regulation.

Wesley Carpenter made 13 saves on goal to help keep the goose egg in regulation. The teams then went to two, 10-minute overtimes to no avail.

Two five-minute overtimes also proved fruitless with Upperman losing a player to a red card with just 32 second left in the last overtime.

After 110 minutes of

scoreless soccer, the teams went to penalty kicks with each club getting to send six players to kick from the penalty area.

Tiger goalie Wesley Carpenter was able to make a save but his counterpart on the Bees

squad made two saves,

giving his team a 5-4 win in

penalty kicks, propelling

them to the district champion-

ship.

Several players were honored following the game including Cristobal Flores who was voted

Most Valuable Player in the District 6AA. Jasper Kleparek was named Dis-

trict Rookie of the Year.

Named to the all-district team along with Flores and Kleparek were Cesar Coronilla, Pablo Juarez,

Dylan Easterwood and Wesley Carpenter. Cited for their play in the district

tournament were Luke Bryant and Daniel Munoz.

DCHS baseball season ends

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The DeKalb County Tiger baseball squad went from the mountain top to the valley all within the course of a week, celebrating a walk-off hit that propelled it to the semi-finals of the district tournament to a back-to-back loses that bounced the team from the tourney and ended its season.

It was actually the fifth inning of the Tigers rematch with Upperman that ended their season last Wednesday before the home crowd that had just witnessed, days before, Skyler Sparks smash a walk-off hit to defeat the Bees 2-1. However, that win was followed up by a loss in the next round to Upperman, 8-1, leaving the teams to meet for a third and deciding game in the double elimination tournament.

Things looked bright for the Tigers as they took a quick 4-0 lead

in the first inning with Colter Norris starting the scoring with a single in the first. His work at the plate was joined by Skyler Sparks and Lee Randolph, all of whom had multiple hit games. Norris pitched the entire game, giving up nine hits while striking out five. He threw 110 pitches during the outing, 71 of which were strikes. He forced eight ground outs and four fly-outs.

While plating four in the first, DeKalb was unable to put any more runs on the board. However, Upperman would begin chiseling away at the lead in the fourth when they brought in two runs. The difference in the game came in the fifth when they scored three runs, giving them the 5-4 advantage which proved to be the margin of victory.

The loss ended the Ti-



Joni Robinson sprints to outrun the throw to third during

the Tigerette rout of Marion County Monday night in the first round of the regional tournament. The squad will travel to Dunlap for the next round tonight. See video highlights at www.smithvillereview.com in the multimedia section.

Tigerettes advance

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After winning the district by defeating rival Upperman in the finals in Watertown last week, the Tigerettes returned home Monday night and claimed a first round win in regional play Monday night, topping Marion County 15-5.

The win advances the local softball squad into the next round where it will travel to face Sequatchie County in Dunlap tonight. The win against Marion County also assured at least two more games this season.

Things didn't get off to an ideal start for the home team as Marion County started the top of the first by plating two runs. However, the Tigerettes answered in the bottom half of the inning as Kinzie France sent a towering home run shot over the centerfield fence, scoring two runners who were on base thanks to early walks by the Marion pitcher.

With the game knotted at three, the pitchers took over, both hurling two consecutive scoreless innings with DeKalb going down 1-2-3 in the third.

The fourth was a different story. After giving up a lead-off double to the visitors in the top of the fourth, DeKalb was able to get out of the inning without giving up a run. The defensive momentum boiled over into the home half of the inning as Allison Maynard stepped to the plate and fired a shot over the fence, scoring a runner to make the count 5-3.

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