

SPORTS B

Champions crowned



Duane Sherrill photos

Liberty State Bank bested Mullins and Watson Builders by a single run in the deciding game of their three-game tilt to determine the winner of the DeKalb County Youth Baseball Minor League title. Liberty's Landon Colwell, above, and Mullins and Lawson's Jon Hendrix, at right, took the mound for their teams during the three-game championship series.

Liberty State, Webb's take titles

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A pair of showdowns marked the end of the season for the DeKalb County Youth Baseball League with Liberty State Bank claiming the minor league title while Webb's Pharmacy took the major league crown, both championships coming down to a single run.

The minor league final looked to be a blow out

early as Liberty State Bank came out strong, taking a 10-1 lead behind hits from Landon Colwell, Luke Midgett and Alex Lemons. However, Mullins and Watson Builders would not go quietly as they battled back behind home runs off the bats of Jamison Troncoso and Jon Hendrix, a triple from Logan Duke and a couple of doubles from Nick Murphy. The rally fell just short as Liberty held on for a 10-9 win and the title.

The game was the third in a series between the top-ranked teams. Just the night before, Liberty and Mullins had split a pair, forcing the third and deciding game to determine the champion. In the first of the two games leading up to the title match, Liberty was held hitless in a 14-3 rout by Mullins and Watson. Liberty State came back in the second half of the double header, winning 11-9.

In the major league title game, both teams came in at 9-4 for the season. Insta-Cash came in like a house afire, plating seven runs in the first inning, followed by five more in the second. Driving the early rally were hits by Jacob Hendrix, Shadie Rankhorn, Paul Oliver, and Luke Magness. However, by the fourth, Webb's had chipped away at the lead, knotting the score at 13 behind hits from Hunter Cantrell, Chandler Johnson, Jackson Arnold, Dalton Williams, Cameron Caballero, Logan Ellis and Jordan Parker.

Webb's was able to plate a run in the fifth and hold its opponents scoreless to claim a time-limit win after five by the count of 14-13.



Stanley wins BFL tourney

Boater Matt Stanley of Alexandria brought a five-bass limit to the scale Saturday weighing 19 pounds, 10 ounces, to win the T-H Marine FLW Bass Fishing League (BFL) Music City Division tournament on Center Hill Lake. For his efforts, Stanley took home \$2,748.

"I caught my fish deep in over 20 feet of water," said Stanley, who logged his fourth career win in BFL competition. "I mostly fished rocky drop-offs and brush piles and caught around 18 keepers. I had confidence in the spots from living on the lake. That helped more than anything."

Stanley said he made around 40 stops throughout his day, fishing between the takeoff ramp and the dam. He said he used a Green Gizzard Shad-colored Strike King 10XD crankbait and a 3/4-ounce tungsten Picasso football-head jig with a homemade skirt and a green-pumpkin-colored Xcite Baits Raptor Tail Jr. trailer.

"I'd stop for 15 minutes or so to see if they were biting or not. If I did find a school and caught one or two I'd have to leave anyways because I'd pull them off the spot and wouldn't get bit after that," said Stanley. "My iROD Fred's Crank Launcher rod was key for me. It was able to withstand the weight of the 10XD and cast it a mile."

Stanley said his local knowledge really paid off when it came to understanding how the boat traffic affects the fishing.

"A lake that deep doesn't have a lot of current, so I looked for areas that had a lot of pleasure boaters," said Stanley. "They disturb the water and I think that pulls the fish out deep."



KENZIE FRANCE



KRISTENA BAIN

Bain, France honored

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Two DeKalb County School softball players have been honored by the Tennessee Softball Coaches Association following the outstanding Tigerette season that was stopped just short of the state finals.

Kristena Bain was one of 15 seniors selected to play in the All-Star game for Middle Tennessee, the game played this past week. Bain had an exceptional senior campaign with the Tigerettes, batting in 24 RBIs and having a batting average of .425.

Meanwhile Kenzie France was the sole member of her

squad to be named All-State, joining 16 other high school softball stars across the state in getting the honor. She pounded 13 homeruns, 66 RBIs and batted .467 during her sophomore season.

The Tigerettes finished the season as district and regional champions, defeating the rival Upperman Bees for the

district crown before moving on to knock off Marion County and Sequatchie County for the regional title. France had a two homer game against Marion and also slapped another one over the fence in the Sweetwater game. The Tigerettes were stopped at home by Sweetwater to end their season one game short of making the state finals.