

Champs crowned

Storm Troopers win title on penalty kicks

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It was championship week-end in the final Saturday of the summer Center Hill Soccer Club with the U-12 league going to penalty kicks to decide their division title.

The under 12 game went to a 3-3 tie in regulation as the Storm Troopers, who earned their way to a championship shot in the semi-finals by defeating the Red Dragons two weeks ago in a 2-0 game, played the top-ranked Blue Raiders for all the marbles. However, a deadlocked score at the end of regular play forced penalty kicks. The Storm Troopers were able to prevail in the extra session 4-3 in penalty kicks.

Meanwhile, despite being high scoring the U-9 title game was not as close although both teams played aggressively until the final whistle. The Purple Warriors were able to prevail in the game by a count of 5-3, defeating the Blue Dragons.

The final game of the day featured the U-16 title game between the only two teams

in the league, Red and Blue. The Red was able to take the win in a close 2-1 tilt.

While their battle in the heat marked the end of the summer season, the league will only be taking about a month off as the fall league is set to begin in mid-August at the Northside fields.

Fall sign-ups for the Fall Center Hill Soccer Club will be held July 14 at the Northside fields from 8 a.m. to noon and then at the Community Complex from 5 to 7 p.m. July 19 and 24 and 27. There will be another Saturday sign-up on July 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the complex. There will be a mandatory training day on July 28 from 9 a.m. to noon which will also serve as a last chance to sign up with trainings happening July 28 from 9 to 10 a.m. for under four, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for under six, and 10 to 11 a.m. for under nine, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. for under 12 and 11 a.m. to noon for under 16. All players need soccer cleats and shin guards.

An adult league is presently ongoing. The youth league is open to everyone as it is a recreational league.



Duane Sherrill photo

The title game between the Storm Troopers and the Blue Raiders ended up tied in regulation leading to penalty kicks to determine the champion. The Storm Troopers ended up winning 4-3 in penalties.

Football practice starts

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The countdown has begun as the DeKalb County Tiger football season looms just a month away, kicking off with the annual border battle against Warren County.

"They've done well over the summer," said Tiger Head Coach Steve Trapp who has kept the team conditioned throughout summer break aside from the state required dead period which ended July 1. "We will be out in helmets and then in pads, getting ready for the season."

The Tigers have already had a taste of competition with a seven-on-seven passing scrimmage against Cookeville, a challenge in the coach said his players did well.

"We tied one and won five," he said of the mini games against Cookeville.

Upcoming scrimmages to help prepare for the season opener at home against Warren County on Aug. 17 will include a trip to Gordonsville on July 27 for a 6 p.m. kickoff. The Tigers will then return home for their final tune up as they host Friendship Christian on Aug. 3.

"We are calling that our football community event," the coach revealed. "There will be a BBQ dinner for the fans and we will also have our Ford Drive event that night."

Coach Trapp said Clay County had to withdraw from a jamboree the team had planned, so barring the last-minute scheduling of another scrimmage and a planned seven-on-seven at Shelbyville, the Friendship Christian game will sum up the pre-season for the Tigers.

When the season does kick off, the Tigers will be looking to avenge their opening day loss last year at Warren County, 26-10, when they host their old rivals in a series that began in 2005. Prior to their loss last year, the Tigers had bested the Pioneers three years in a row.

The Tigers finished their 2017 campaign with a 3-8 mark with wins over Grundy County, Cannon County and Cumberland County. They were bounced from the playoffs in the first round by fourth-ranked Marshall County who made it to the state semi-finals before falling to eventual champions Greeneville.



Duane Sherrill photo

Desmond Nokes nearly runs out of his shoes as he does the cone drill during summer conditioning in preparation for the DeKalb County Tigers' upcoming 2018 campaign which looms less than a month away when they host the border battle against Warren County on Aug. 17.

Softball league action heats up

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A pair of home runs in the seventh decided a high-scoring affair in the senior division of the Bill Page softball league as Prater's Plumbing outscored South and Sons Construction 25-24.

Home runs by Destiny Murphy and Thaxton Salinas in the seventh helped lift Prater's to a 7-2 mark as the season winds down in the slow pitch league while South and Sons continued going south at 2-8, although they have accounted for one of Prater's two losses, that coming in a 21-14 upset last month.

It appeared Prater's would win in a run away as they went up 12-1 in the third after plating 10 runs in the inning. However, South and Sons came alive in the fourth inning, surpassing Prater's rally with one of their own, scoring six in the fourth and 10 in the fifth. The rally left the rivals tied going into the sixth; however, a pair of home runs by Dalton Bain and Hunter Walker plated four runs for Prater's while a triple by Skyler Fuson and single base smack by Conner Crabtree accounted for South and Son's only two runs in the sixth. Jacob Brown was able to knock a homer in the seventh, setting his team up for a run at the win in the seventh. However, the pair of round trippers for Prater's proved to be the deciding runs. The win put Prater's in a foot race with NAPA which came into this week with a 6-3 mark, their wins including one over Prater's. While high scoring, the recent Prater's versus South and Sons tilt did not match their mega match earlier this season when Prater's defeated them 32-21 on June 11.

In Junior League action at Bill Page, Bumper Blue Jays locked up Pokey's Bail Bonds



Marcus Cripps of Pokey's Bail Bonds offers up a pitch during his team's 20-2 loss to the undefeated Bumper Blue Jays in Bill Page League action.

20-2, going up 9-2 in the second inning to continue its perfect 9-0 season coming into this week.

Actually, Katilynn Dyal and Shian Lanier were the only Pokey's players to cross home plate during the entire affair as their scoring began and ended in the first inning. Pokey's sat at 1-6 going into this week having not won a game since June 7.

The evening of play began with the Mayor's Kids topping Johnson's Chiropractic in the Baby Doll league in a close 6-5 tilt.

Johnson's led most of the way after getting out to a 3-2 lead after the first with scores by Malachi VanDeveer, Taylor Vincent and Kaden West. Those runs were countered by a first inning in-the-park homerun smashed by Tristan Cavanah that scored Dayla Cavanah.

It was runs in the fourth by the Cavanah kids along with a run added Kevin Murphy that accounted for the 6-5 Mayor's Kids win.