

TIGERS IN TRAINING

Football team prepares for scrimmage

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Sweating in July to make a run in October, the DeKalb County Tigers are in full preparation mode for the 2018 season, their first step coming with a scrimmage in Gordonsville Friday night.

The Tigers kickoff the scrimmage at 6 p.m., the first of two tune-ups for the regular session. The second will come against Friendship Christian on Aug. 3 on what Coach Steve Trapp has declared Community Day where fans will be honored for their continued support of the program.

Friday's scrimmage comes after the Tigers practiced in full gear this past week, honing their skills in the late afternoon heat while much of the rest of DeKalb County enjoyed cotton candy at the county fair. The team was treated to a meal Friday evening during an overnighiter at the stadium, a reward for their hard work during the offseason.

The Tigers begin their 2108 campaign when they host the Warren County Pioneers in their annual border battle Aug. 17. They are hoping to avenge last year's 26-10 loss to their arch rivals. The Smithville Review will sponsor a pep rally for the team Aug. 16 at the stadium on the eve of the kickoff.



Axel Aldino fires a pass downfield during practice for the DeKalb County Tigers. The squad is now practicing in full gear, readying itself for their scrimmage with Gordonsville this Friday night.

Duane Sherrill photo



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Ben Waggoner of DeKalb Insurance golfs a low pitch during Baby Doll League play at Bill Page Park this past week. His team fell to the Mayor's Kids 6-1 in the final week of games for the summer softball league.

Mayor's Kids notch another win

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The Mayor's Kids surrendered a single run on their way to another win this past week as the season wound down at Bill Page Park, topping Erie Agents 6-1 in Baby Doll action at Bill Page Field.

Matthew Haggard actually accounted for the only run Erie had inits tilt with the first-place Mayor's Kids. Haggard got on base thanks to a walk and then was batted in by Trinity Chance who hit a bases clearing double. The score, however, was the only offensive bright spot for the Erie team, the second-inning rally pulling them even with the Mayor's Kids who had scored a run keyed by a Tristan Cavanah double in the first.

The third inning went all wrong for Erie as the first four batters to the plate scored, including runs by Kloe Walker, Tristan Cavanah, Day-

la Cavanah and Ronnie Goff.

The Baby Doll standings going into the final week of play saw the Mayor's Kids at the top at 8-2 followed by Johnson Chiropractic at 4-4 and DeKalb Insurance and D&S Special Tees tied at 3-6.

Junior league action wasn't as close as the Bumper's Blue Jay continued its near-perfect season by holding their opponent to a goose egg, shutting out Pokey's Bail Bonding 25-0. The only mark on Bumpers was a 10-8 loss to Ludwig Vinyl and Crafts the game before.

Softball fans realized it was going to be a tough game for Pokey's when Bumpers posted 17 runs in the first inning, with every member of Bumpers scoring during the dizzying scoring rally. Ally Bly and Chrystyan Tate contributed home runs during a one-sided affair while Ally and Halyna Newby had triples. Araya Ittayem, Lilly Waggoner and Alea Kalmar had doubles. The game was

stopped by run rule after Pokey's had an at-bat in the third.

The Junior League standings going into the final week of play included Bumpers at 10-1, Ludwig at 2-7 and Pokey's at 2-6.

In senior league action, Prater's had a slightly harder time in the night cap, knocking off South and Sons by a count of 24-5.

The issue for South was not the beginning but the end of the game as four of its five runs came in the second inning, keeping the game close until Prater's broke out in the fourth with nine runs.

Sporting a 17-4 lead going into the fifth, Prater's hosed any hope of a comeback by South as it plated seven runs, spurred on by back-to-back home runs hit by Dalton Bain and Hunter Walker.

Senior League standings going into the final week of play were Praters and NAPA tied for first at 8-3 and South at 2-10.

Solid core returns for DCMS Saints

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With just two weeks to go before the DeKalb Middle School Saints takes to the gridiron, Head Coach Justin Poteete says he has a good core returning players who he believes can help the squad be successful during the 2018 campaign.

"We have five or six returning from last year," Poteete said as he gets ready to kick off his second year at the Saints' helm. "We also have a good core group who I believe we will be able to plug and play. We are going to have to rely on some seventh-graders as I'd say we are made up roughly of a 50/50 split of seventh and eighth-grade players."

Returning at running back this year will be Kolby Barnes who was forced into a leading role last year, giving him good seasoning for a year where Poteete believes the run game will be at the forefront.

"If I had to describe it, I'd say we run

a spread offense," the coach revealed. "We like to mix it up, sometimes run four wide."

Poteete said the Saints won't be afraid to throw the ball. "We will be going with Briz Trapp at quarterback," the coach said. "He throws the ball pretty well so we won't be afraid to go downfield."

Andrew Vickers and Josh May, both hybrid players on offense, will also be key returners this season, with the coach expecting a lot from them as the core team will be playing on both sides of the ball.

The coach hopes the Saints can take the next step this season and make it to the playoff for the conference title. Last year the Saints finished third with a 5-3 record in his first year as coach, barely missing the playoffs. The conference takes the top two teams.

The Saints will kick off their season Aug. 9 at Avery Trace. They will host their first home game the next week on Aug. 16 when they entertain Jackson County here.



Duane Sherrill photo

DeKalb Middle School quarterback Briz Trapp fends off the rush from Trace Hamilton as the Saints run through their list of plays during practice in preparation for their kick off of the season at Avery Trace on Aug. 9. The Saints host their first home game on Aug. 16 when Jackson County comes to town.