



Duane Sherrill photo

An Overton County player flinches as Lady Saint Raven Savage kicks the ball during their middle school game this past Thursday in Smithville. Savage scored the only goal in the 1-1 tie.

Lady Saints march into playoffs

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The Lady Saints will be marching into the playoffs next week, their post season appearance coming after a 3-0 shut-out of Smith County this past week.

The middle school soccer team will host the game this

Monday against an opponent to be determined. The Lady Saints sat at 5-1-2 in the district, good enough for third place going into last night's game against 8-0 and conference-leading Al-good, meaning the Smithville club could be seeded either third or fourth Monday. A win in the first round would mean an immediate turn around for a game on Tuesday night.

Making it to the playoffs was a goal set by head coach Justin Nokes before the season began. The squad barely missed post season play last season.

"We were just one game from making the playoffs last year," Nokes recalled of their 5-5 campaign in 2017. "We want to make that next step and get into the playoffs this season."

The club was able to accom-

plish the goal thanks to six returning starters from last season and a strong defense.

The defense shined in their 3-0 white-washing of the visiting Smith County squad as they capped off their regular season home schedule. Raven Savage had two goals and Juana Godinez one in the win. Cassandra Garcia chipped in with two assists.

The night before their eighth-grade night victory over Smith County, the Lady Saints battled to a 1-1 draw against Overton County.

Raven Savage accounted for the only Lady Saints goal with an assist from Kelbi Young. Overton sits in second place in the Upper Cumberland Soccer Conference with a 6-1-1 district record.

Tigers swarm Yellow Jackets

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The DeKalb County Tigers got off the snide in a big way Friday night as they traveled to Coalmont and handed the Grundy County Yellow Jackets a stinging 28-6 loss despite missing several starters due to injury.

"We had several step up and answer the call," said Coach Steve Trapp of the road win which ended a three-game losing streak, all three loses coming to top ten teams. "We had played against some top competition the last few weeks so it was good to get a win under our belts."

It didn't take the Tigers long to get going against the Jackets as quarterback Axel Aldino hit Grayson Redmon with a 54-yard bomb at the 10:20 mark of the first quarter. The early volley was indicative of the break-through night for the sophomore signal caller as he would put up 209 yards passing along with 123 yards on 14 rushes.

Grundy County was unable to do anything offensively early as the tandem of quarterback Ethan Nunley and running back Gavin Tate accounted for 90 percent of their team's total offense. Keeping them with a glimmer of hope were a pair of miscues on punt returns which gave the Jackets new life on two different occasions.

However, unable to convert on two prime opportunities, one which saw them fail on a fourth down try deep in Tiger territory, the Jackets put the ball back in Aldino's hands. In just his fifth career start, Aldino hit T.J. Alexander for a 46-yard touchdown, making the count 14-0 as the first quarter came to an end.

The Jackets would put together its only sustained drive of the night during the second quarter but a failure on fourth down gave the pigskin back to the Tigers. Aldino would cap a career first half with a second touchdown pass to Redmon, hitting him for 53 yards and a 21-0 lead. Redmon had four catches on the night for 123 yards.

The next possession of the Tigers provided Aldino's lone mistake as an interception led to the Jackets' only touchdown when Tate make good on the miscue a few plays later and took it in for a five-yard touchdown. The Jackets trailed 21-6



Photo courtesy Tena Edwards

The Tiger defense wraps up Yellow Jacket quarterback Ethan Nunley Friday evening on the way to a 28-6 victory in Grundy County. Along with a tough defense, DeKalb County had over 400 yards in offense on their way to snapping their three game losing streak, all to teams in the state's top 10.