

## THE ART OF RACING

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## Big win for Busch

Kyle Busch and Kevin Harvick have dominated the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. Just when you think one of the drivers has the advantage, the other one jumps up and says not so fast.

Kyle Busch won the Coca-Cola 600 last week in record-breaking fashion. The longest race on the Cup Series schedule was broken down into four 100-lap stages. Busch won all the stages, picking up the maximum points available - 70. This gives him a 67-point lead over Joey Logano. With 60 points being the max in any other race this season, Busch can finish last next week and still be leading the points race.

Busch started on the pole and led all but 23 of the 400-lap race. He never was passed on the track during green flag runs and the only time he was not leading the race was because of drivers staying out on the track during green-flag pit stops. Busch's pit crew got him out first on yellow-flag pit stops and he always pulled away from the rest of the field.

The Charlotte Motor Speedway was the only track on the MENCs circuit Busch has not won. With his victory last week, he is the only active driver in NASCAR to win at every track, something not even Jeff Gordon or Jimmy Johnson have achieved.

Harvick was supposed to give Busch stiff competition in the 600, but it didn't pan out. Harvick entered the race determined to win for the sixth time, but had to start last when he failed to post a qualifying time. He still gave the fans a thrill when he moved into sixth after the first 45 laps. With 17 laps to go in the first stage, Harvick was running fourth when a tire blew, sending him into the wall and ending his day.

The regular season is at the halfway point and Harvick and Busch have won nine of the 13 races. It is becoming apparent that the point standings are becoming extremely important in gaining entry into the playoffs. As it stands now, Eric Jones, Alex Bowman and Chase Elliott are in the playoffs, with Ricky Stenhouse, Paul Menard and Daniel Suarez looking to move ahead of them.

Last Sunday was a race junkies dream with 1,262 miles of racing being contested among three different racing series. Daniel Ricciardo won the Monaco Grand Prix (162 miles), Will Power was victorious in the Indy 500, giving team owner Roger Penske his 17th victory. Then Kyle Busch closed out the long day of racing by winning the Coca-Cola 600.

The highlight of the weekend was probably Saturday night's running of the Show Me 100, a late model race on a dirt track. It produced more excitement for the fans than any of Sunday's races.

# Dodd makes her selections

## New WCMS soccer coach picks team

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS  
Sports Editor for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

The first act for Lyndi Dodd as the new Warren County Middle School soccer coach was to select a team.

Dodd, who takes over the Lady Pioneers after the team won back-to-back Central Tennessee Conference titles, believes there is plenty of experience coming back to make another run.

"We have quite a few eighth-graders and several sixth-graders too," said Dodd, a former WCMS and WCHS standout. "It's a good mix of experience and youth. I think we'll have a solid team."

Jasmine Calel, Bekah Jackson, Carmen Verdel, Jessica Alvarez, Ella Colvard, Claire Colvard, Trinity Murray, Bailey Bundy, Sami Anderson, Hailey Simpson, Savannah Winfree, Sable Winfree and Ashlyn Reagan all return from last year's roster.

Continued on 2B



Jacob Dodd photo

Hailey Simpson is one of 22 players selected to the WCMS Lady Pioneer soccer team. New coach Lyndi Dodd will be looking to continue the winning tradition, with the Lady Pioneers coming off back-to-back CTC championships.



Jeffery Simmons photo

Junior Hallie Jo Pennington will be back for the Lady Pioneers this winter.

## Making the cut

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS  
Sports Editor for the Southern Standard  
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

Shea Panter didn't have to sweat much about her roster this year. Almost everybody was already coming back.

The Lady Pioneer roster was set this week, with Panter leaning heavily on returning upperclassmen which helped the team make a run to region last season.

Returning all-district selections Tyra Wright and Megan Patch are back for their senior year, joined by classmates Emily Mikkola, Grace Rains, Caylie Sherrell

and Bri Young. Mikkola has served as the team's starting point guard for the majority of her career, while Rains, Sherrell and Young were all spot starters for last year's 12-win squad.

Only one major rotation spot was vacated by graduation, as Callie Cathcart exhausted her eligibility. Juniors Kenley Cathcart, Hallie Jo Pennington and Beth Vaughn will try to earn more minutes this year in Cathcart's spot after playing the majority of their minutes on JV last year.

Continued on 2B

## May Mania



Liam Warden, front, leads the charge during dribbling drills at May Mania basketball camp.



Jeffery Simmons photos

Campers look on as WCHS girls basketball coach Shea Panter launches a half-court shot at the conclusion of her two-day May Mania basketball camp. Nearly 100 kids attended the fundamental camp, which had WCHS players and Panter as instructors.

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- For players new to the sport & need basic instruction

**June 4th 6-7pm**  
play on Mon. & Thurs. 10:30am

**June 5th 6-7pm**  
play on Tues. & Thurs. 6pm

#### League 3.0

- For beginners who know the basics

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play on Mon. & Thurs. 11:30am

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