

**SIMMONS SAYS**

**JEFFERY  
SIMMONS**



## In need of three wishes

Everyone knows at this point if you meet a genie promising to grant wishes, your first wish should be for infinite wishes. But what good genie would allow that? It's not realistic.

"Aladdin" proved you are only going to be granted three wishes and you better not mess it up.

I already know mine (spoiler alert: they all involve sports).

**WISH NO. 1** - I've found myself daydreaming all week about the same thing. It's the fourth quarter of the AFC championship game. The Jaguars have improbably kept it close, trailing 24-20 with just a minute to go. Blake Bortles has the ball in his hand and the Jags in Patriot territory.

With time winding down and the defense breathing down his neck, Bortles escapes the rush and runs for his life. The Jags QB is just fast enough to outrun the Patriots defense, and he crosses the goal line just as time expires.

So for my first wish, I ask the genie to make sure the referees don't throw a phantom holding flag when Bortles wins it in Foxsborough Sunday.

**WISH NO. 2** - If you heard an audible groan midday on Wednesday in Westwood, it was me. And by audible groan, I mean the guy in his backyard screaming "WHY?!" at the top of his lungs.

I didn't handle the news Spurs SF Kawhi Leonard would again be out for an extended period. Leonard, who has finished in the top three of the MVP voting the last two years, has played nine games this season. This is unacceptable.

For wish No. 2, I want the genie to remove Kawhi's faulty right quadriceps tendon and replace it with a better one. I want my MVP back and at full strength in time to topple the Warriors in the playoffs.

**WISH NO. 3** - I want to be selfless for my last wish. If the Jags are in the Super Bowl and Kawhi is back, I really don't need much else to make me happy.

So for my final wish, I'd ask the genie to add five super athletes to every WCHS roster for the rest of the year. Give our Pioneers and Lady Pioneers to chance to compete in every sport, and see if some district championships come back locally.

Maybe it's not realistic to think five athletes would change the fate of every local program, but come on, what about this seems realistic?

Everybody already knows the Jags are going to beat the Patriots, with or without genie assistance.

# Covenant swept at Civic Center

## Riverside Christian tames Lady Lions

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

One quarter of hot shooting wasn't enough to lead the Covenant Academy High School Lady Lions to victory Friday night at McMinnville Civic Center.

Covenant caught fire in the second quarter to take a halftime lead over visiting Riverside Christian, but the Lady Knights pulled away in the second half to win 61-42.

The Lady Lions, particularly guard Niana Patel, couldn't miss in the second quarter from the outside. Patel drained three 3-pointers in the period, flustering a scrambling Lady Knight defense. When Covenant's top gunner from the outside couldn't pop open, Emma Kate Wrather and Katherine Shelton took aim. Both Lady Lions hit 3-pointers in the period to push Covenant ahead 27-21 at halftime.

Kennedy Honey, who led Riverside with 35 points, took over the second half. The Lady Knight guard wrecked the Covenant defense, breaking away for layups



Jeffery Simmons photos  
**Sarah Sharpe hits a short shot Friday.**

and spotting up for short jumpers. Honey's run-out layup just a minute into the fourth quarter sparked a 10-0 run that effectively put the game away.

Madison Madewell finished with 8 points in the loss, followed by Emma Madewell and Sarah Sharpe with 4 points each. Wrather, Shelton and Chloe Hillis scored 3 points apiece.

Covenant will travel to Lincoln County Tuesday for a rematch with Riverside Christian. Action is set to start at 6 p.m.



**Chloe Hillis had three points in a 61-42 loss to Riverside Christian.**



Jeffery Simmons photo  
**Covenant's Daniel Young rises for a layup in Friday's matchup with Riverside Christian. The Lions fell 65-25 to the visiting Knights.**

## Knights crush Lions

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

Cruising past the Civic Center Friday night, people may have caught a glimpse of a charter bus and thought a professional basketball team had arrived.

Riverside Christian may not be ready for the pro level, but the Knights were more than ready to take over McMinnville Civic Center for a single night.

Led by 19 points from Eli Wright and 16 points from

Will Eldridge, Riverside Christian topped the Covenant Academy Lions 65-25.

Riverside Christian looked comfortable at the local venue, perhaps because the Knights made the trip just a week ago when they beat Boyd 74-49. Covenant was the latest local team to feel the Knights' wrath.

With Wright controlling the paint and Eldridge filling it up from the perimeter, Riverside built a 29-point lead in the first half.

A late 3-pointer from David Netherton and two layup from Terry Hines helped Covenant cut the lead to 40-23 by halftime.

The Knights quickly enacted the mercy rule after the break, and the second half was mostly played with a running clock.

Jackson Smith was able to score five points for the Lions in the fourth quarter, part of a team-high 13 points for the sophomore. Hines finished with 6, while Elijah Smith scored 2 and Noel Patel tallied 1.

## Leading the charge



Jeffery Simmons photo  
**Ava Claire Wrather pushes the ball during Friday's middle school game between Covenant and Riverside Christian. The Lady Lions lost 13-6. Wrather and Addison Smith scored 1 point each, while Cassie Sharpe and Amber Lassister had 2 points apiece.**

## Lions fall to Riverside

The Covenant Academy Middle School boys team gave Riverside Christian its best shot Friday, but suffered the same fate as three other Covenant teams against the Knights.

Despite getting a standout performance from Vansh Patel, the Lions lost 39-22 at McMinnville Civic Center.

Patel was a bright spot for the Lions, scoring 11 points in the loss. Patel was relentless attacking the rim, showing great patience and athleticism to finish over a big Knight front line.

Patel had five points at the half, when the Lions trailed 28-15, and finished strong with a 3-pointer, layup and free throw in the fourth quarter.

Other scorers for Covenant included 5 points from Smit Patel, 4 points from Collin Panter - including a 3-pointer in the second quarter - and 2 points from Chase Newby.

Riverside post Gus Hill finished with a game-high 14 points. Colby Harmening added 11.



Jeffery Simmons photo  
**Vansh Patel scored 11 points in Friday's loss.**

**PINNACLE**  
ORTHOPAEDICS



**PINNACLE**  
**ORTHOPAEDICS**

3085 SPARTA STREET, MCMINNVILLE, TN 37110, 931-815-BONE

**DR. JEFFREY S. PETERSON**  
**HAILEY TAYLOR, FNP-C**  
**TYLER GILLEY, PA-C**

**PINNACLEORTHOPAEDIC.COM**