



Jeffery Simmons photo
Jerry Mrema attacks the basket during the final minutes of Saturday's victory over Shelbyville. Mrema is one of many bench Pioneers receiving big minutes during two recent blow-outs. Warren County improved to 19-5 Monday with a 63-50 victory over Moore County.

Warren County wrecks Raiders

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

Moore County proved to be little more than a speedbump for the Pioneers Monday night.

With three pivotal District 6-AAA games upcoming, Warren County didn't take long in dispatching the Raiders 63-50 on their home floor.

"It was the last time we step out of district. We did what we needed to do and now it's go time," said coach Chris Sullens.

Still with a bitter taste in their mouths following last Friday's loss to Stone Memorial, the Pioneers have taken it out on their last two opponents. The redemption tour started Saturday with a win over Shelbyville (see more details on 2B), then continued in Lynchburg Monday.

Tyree Ladet broke out for 15 points - his highest scoring total since the Sonic Shootout finals in December - to lead the Pioneers Monday. Sloan Seymour followed with 12, while Chance Hobbs added 10 on a night where nine Pioneers scored and 15 players earned minutes.

BOX SCORE					
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	F
PIONEERS	23	14	7	19	63
RAIDERS	5	9	16	20	50
WARREN SCORING - Tyree Ladet 15, Sloan Seymour 12, Chance Hobbs 10, Isaiah Grayson 9, Irving Espinoza 7, Bunker Brock 4, Austin Hodges 3, Raven Lewandowski 2, Brady Gross 1					
RECORD: 19-5 (3-2 district) NEXT GAME: Friday at Rhea County, 7:30 p.m.					

Getting some extra experience for young players was easy to do once the Pioneers built a 23-5 lead after the first quarter.

Ladet got off to a hot start, scoring nine points in the first quarter. Grayson added a 3-pointer and three-point play in the period, while Hobbs connected on two 3-pointers in the first half.

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Elementary season reaches final week

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**
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The stakes are still high for 5-6 grade teams during the final week of the regular season. Tournament seeding and division titles will all be decided this week.

The Warren County Middle School teams took a big step Monday securing top seeds and both improving to 7-0 in regular season play with wins over West Elementary. The Pioneers, led by Easton Denning's 13 points, topped the Wizards 51-0. The Lady Pioneers were just as dominant, winning 44-7 with Bella Pennington leading the way with 10 points (Full scoring breakdowns are on 2B).

While WCMS houses two undefeated teams, two more roam at

county schools. The Centertown Warriors, who didn't play Monday, currently own a 6-0 record in the boys B division. The Morrison Lady Eagles had to defend their unblemished mark Monday night, and did so with a 43-21 victory at Irving College.

Mollie Smith led the Lady Eagles to a 6-0 record by scoring 18 points in Monday's game against the Lady Tigers. Miranda Medley, one of five elementary girls averaging double figures this season, added 10 points while Lilly Cantrell scored a season-high 15 points.

The Lady Eagles did their best to hold Brooklyn Wanamaker in check, though the league's leading scorer still finished with 12 points. Irving College fell to 1-5 in division B with the loss.

Continued on **2B**



Jeffery Simmons photo
Jayla Garibaldi races in front of Lady Tiger Lilly Cathcart during Monday's elementary action.

Adjusting county basketball

Legendary wrestler Hulk Hogan has a knack for getting beaten up during a match, then suddenly finding invincible powers. Opponents can punch and kick him, but once the Hulkster becomes invincible, he squashes them like a pesky spider.

Hulk Hogan comes to mind when I think of the WCMS 6th-grade basketball teams. Competing in the Warren County Elementary League, the Pioneers and Lady Pioneers have been unstoppable.

The WCMS boys are coming off a 51-0 win over West Elementary on Monday night. This comes after victories this year by scores such as 46-7, 55-0, and 47-6. The closest game the Pioneers have experienced in the county league is a 40-11 win over Dibrell.

The WCMS 6th-grade girls have been nearly as dominant, winning by scores such as 33-6, 48-5 and 30-2. The closest game for the Lady Pioneers this year has been a 16-point victory.

The lopsided contests have rekindled the age-old question of what to do with WCMS when it



comes to competing against other basketball teams in the county. WCMS is much bigger than the outlying schools so the talent pool in which to pick a team is much greater. WCMS also has the power to attract players from other schools because WCMS travels outside the county and faces stiffer completion at the 7-8 grade level.

For those with long memories, there was a time when 7th-graders at WCMS stayed in county and faced the 7-8 grade teams from all the other schools. Now the WCMS 6th-grade team is the only one which competes in county.

The problem with this arrangement is it doesn't work for anyone involved. Obviously the teams getting pounded by scores

of 47-6 aren't too pleased. I don't want to lose a game 47-6 and I imagine most people don't want to be on the wrong end of that one either.

On the flip side, it's not much of a thrill ride for the winners. The starters aren't challenged and often only get to play for a quarter before the subs fill in the rest of the way. The subs aren't challenged either. It's not an equation for making players at WCMS better.

I know school officials are aware of all these issues and had a hunch they would surface when Hickory Creek, Bobby Ray and West formed basketball teams and were allowed to compete in the league two years ago. The inherent problem is those schools only go up to 5th grade and they are forced to face players one grade older.

School officials I've talked with recently have always said the elementary league is a work in progress and they are open to change. I hope they can work toward this change before next season because a game with a final score of 51-0 is a game not worth playing.

Showing support



Jeffery Simmons photo
Online supporters voted for Eli Buchanon to be pictured from Saturday's game against Shelbyville (story on 2B). To participate in voting or to get the latest on Warren County sports, follow @sstandardsports on Twitter.

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