

Eagles upset in region tourney

With their sights set on a fourth straight state tournament, the Van Buren County Eagles saw their season end Saturday in the region tournament.

The Eagles were topped 84-76 by Clay County in the opening round of the Region 3A tournament. It snapped a three-year streak where Van Buren County claimed the region championship.

The loss came as a shock around the state. Van Buren County was ranked No. 2 in the state in Class A coming into the matchup and was expected to compete for a state title behind the leadership of Tennessee Tech signee Caden Mills. The Eagles had swept the season series against Clay County, winning 80-67 and 80-64 in previous meetings.

Clay County went on to win in the region semifinals Tuesday, beating Pickett County 76-61.

In girls basketball action, the Eaglettes were downed 57-26 by state-ranked Clarkrange.

Mallory Christian led Van Buren County (12-19) with 15 points in the loss. Rounding out the scoring was Kinzie Johnson with four, Emma Scoggins and Mika Davis with three and Gabby Young with one.



Caden Mills played his final game with Van Buren County Saturday when the Eagles were upset by Clay County 84-76. Mills is signed to continue his career at Tennessee Tech.



Mallory Christian, pictured competing in the District 5A tournament, scored 15 points in a loss Friday to Clarkrange.

Hitting her mark



Emily Cantrell, 11, took first place in the girls elementary division at the the Shootout on the Hill tournament held in Crossville recently. Cantrell, a fifth-grade student at Dibrell is pictured with her coaches Mike Mullins, left, and officer Brad Hennessee. Emily is the daughter of Chad and Wendy Cantrell.

Hobbs, Ladet

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Ladet scored 14 of his 24 points in the fourth quarter, including hitting three 3-pointers. Known more for his ability to get to the rim, Ladet was lights out from the perimeter Tuesday. Ladet hit five of Warren County's nine 3-pointers against the Panthers.

Going down firing was the only way coach Sullens could see his senior leaving.

"Tyree is a competitor. He was locked in and had a great week of preparation leading up to the region tournament," said Sullens. "He wanted to will us to win. He almost did."

Hobbs was held to 11 points in the semifinals, but his 14 points helped the Panthers get past Walker Valley 52-48 in the quarterfinals.

The senior sharpshooter often draws the full attention of opposing defenses, but Hobbs shaking loose for back-to-back 3-pointers against the Mustangs was pivotal during a 14-0 run that led to a region win. Hobbs was also the man on the line to close the game, as

his two free throws with 30 seconds left sealed a victory.

Hobbs still found a way to make an impact against the Panthers Tuesday despite being bottled up offensively late. He took the challenge of defending Stone Memorial guard Brett Newcome one-on-one and the all-district selection was held to just one field goal in the second half.

"Hobbs grew into our lockdown defender in the last month. He had a great game against Noah Hilliker (District 6AAA player of the year) when

Vols vying for SEC title

STARKVILLE, MISS. (AP) — Tennessee stayed in the hunt for a Southeastern Conference title thanks to a stellar second-half performance on the road.

Admiral Schofield had 24 points, Lamonte Turner added 12 and the 16th-ranked Volunteers pulled away for a 76-54 victory over Mississippi State on Tuesday night.

Schofield also had seven rebounds and shot 9 of 18 from the field for the Volunteers (22-7, 12-5 SEC), who made 13 of their final 15 field goal attempts.

Tennessee started the second half on a 16-8 run to grab complete control and led 56-42 with just under 14 minutes left in regulation. Mississippi State never got within 14 points the rest of the way.

Tennessee shot 56.3 percent from the field for the game. Mississippi State shot 39.2 percent for the game, including just 28.6 percent in the second half. Tennessee was 18 of 23 at the free throw line and out-rebounded the Bulldogs 34-24.

kept their SEC regular-season title hopes alive and have won 10 of their last 12 games. Tennessee continues to use depth to its advantage - the Volunteers' reserves scored 25 points compared to six for Mississippi State.

MSU: The Bulldogs will likely have to make noise in the SEC Tournament along with getting a win at LSU Saturday to stay in the conversation.

UP NEXT

Tennessee concludes the regular season Saturday vs. Georgia, 5 p.m. on the SEC network.

BIG PICTURE
VOLS: The Volunteers

SPORTS BRIEFS

MORRISON SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

Registration for the Morrison 2018 softball leagues will be held at the Morrison Ruritan Building on the following dates and times: Saturday, March 3 from 4-6 p.m. and Thursday, March 8 from 6-8 p.m.

Boys ages 2 to 20 and girls 2 to 21 as of Jan. 1 are eligible. All players must have proof of age (ex. birth certificate or driver's license). The cost is \$30. For more information, contact John Duncan by text at 205-7835.

Late signups will be held Saturday, March 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee at late registration is \$35.

WCHS BASEBALL BANQUET

The WCHS baseball spring banquet will be held Saturday, March 10 at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$100 each and include admission and meals for two people. The guest speaker will be former San Diego Padre Matthew Shepherd. Every ticket holder will receive a door prize.

For additional info, contact Chuck Hollingsworth 931-607-5014.

SUBMIT A SPORTS BRIEF

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Puzzlemania solutions

PUZZLES ON PAGE 7A

CELEBRITY CIPHER

"If something is painful or upsetting, you shouldn't hide from it. You should make it part of your life instead." — Valerie Harper

TODAY'S CLUE: ♂ sjenba X

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Morrison Ruritan Youth Co-Ed Softball Leagues

SIGN-UP DATES

February 10, 2018, Saturday - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
February 17, 2018, Saturday - 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
February 20, 2018, Tuesday - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
March 3, 2018, Saturday - 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
March 8, 2018, Thursday - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

LATE SIGN-UPS

March 17, 2018, Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Morrison Ruritan Building, (121 West Maple Street, Morrison)
At the time of sign-ups all players MUST have proof of age (example: Birth Certificate or Drivers License) and player fee of \$30.00. Late registration fee will be \$35.

LEAGUES (age as of January 1, 2018) • Training League (Ages 2-3) • T-Ball League (Ages 4-5) • Junior Coach Pitch (Ages 6-7) • Coach Pitch League (Ages 8-9) • Youth League (Ages 10-12) • Junior League (Boys Ages 13-15, Girls Ages 13-16) • Senior League (Boys Ages 16-20, Girls Ages 17-21)

For additional information, contact John Duncan by text at 205-7835.