

Vandagriffs lure in win

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

The Vandagriffs are becoming the first family of fishing in Warren County.

Samuel and Matthew Vandagriff continued their domination of the high school fishing circuit Saturday, winning their first competition of the season at the Centerhill tournament held Saturday.

Samuel, a senior, and Matthew, a sophomore, qualified for the Bassmaster National Championship with the victory. It will be the fourth straight year they have participated in the prestigious event.

The brothers, accom-

panied by their father and boat captain Barry Vandagriff, had a good read Saturday on where the bass would be biting. Held to a five-fish limit, the Vandagriff brothers brought in a quintet of bass which tipped the scales a 22.44 pounds.

It was more than enough to top a field of 121 boats which gathered at Ragland Bottom campground on Centerhill Lake.

The Vandagriffs will have to wait until Aug. 2-4 to take part in the championships on Kentucky Lake, but they'll spend the rest of the spring and summer fishing in local events.

Bass should be on the lookout for the Vandagriff brothers.



Photo provided
Brothers Samuel, center, and Matthew, right, Vandagriff won the Centerhill tournament held Saturday. They are pictured with their father and boat captain Barry Vandagriff.

WCMS baseball

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Johnson set the Raiders down in order in the top of the ninth, bringing the Pioneers to the plate for the first time since the first inning not trailing on the scoreboard.

Warren County's first two batters were retired, but Lane Roberts took one for the team to reach base. Roberts quickly swiped second to move the game-winning run in scoring position.

Moore picked out a 1-1 pitch and drove it into left field. Roberts never broke stride rounding third and slid into home safely to give the Pioneers the victory. Teammates poured on the field to swarm Roberts and Moore after they helped push their team to a perfect 3-0 in conference play.

Gilliam was the leader offensively, going 4-for-5. Moore had two hits and scored twice, including the first inning when he walked and scored on a throwing error to put the Pioneers up 1-0.

Coffee County answered back with three runs in the second off Hunter, who pitched six innings and struck out six while allowing three runs on five hits and two walks. Kendall Patrick faced eight batters in relief, while Johnson earned the win by getting the final four outs.



Photos provided
Covenant Academy's Saturday league participants in the grades K-1 are, front row, from left, Dominic Monzon, Ella Wells, Bowman Stotts, Willa Denning, Lawson Denning, Gage Woodlee, Kingston Judkins, and Trigg Culwell. Back row, Case Simpson, Kinsley Simpson, Braxton Wingate, coach Elijah Smith, Kolton Thompson, Jaxton Smith, Aven King, Layne Taylor, coach Jackson Smith, Caleb Rhoady, coach Ryan Smith and Noah Terry.



Covenant Academy's Saturday league participants in the grades 2-3 are, front row, from left, Ty Arnold, Cruz Monzon, John Brock, Isaac Smith, Dean Wingate, Anden Green, Eastlan Green, Addison Steakley and Abigail Bundy. Back row, coach Elijah Smith, Dylan Walker, Aidan Greene, Max Onkst, Huck Damon, Brant Damon coach Jackson Smith, Luke Simpson, Kai Bennett, Kase Bennett, Kaitlyn Steele and Katie Bechtel.



Covenant Academy's Saturday league participants in the grades 4-5 are, front row, from left, Isaac Smith, Elsa Smith, Dylan Walker, Lola Wells and Addison Smith. Back row, coaches Elijah Smith, Jackson Smith and Ryan Smith.

Covenant celebrates youth b-ball league

The 2017-2018 season of the Covenant Academy Saturday basketball league marked its eighth season offering basketball instruction to the community of Warren County. This season included three different sessions that included a total of 62 girls and boys from kindergarten to fifth grade.

They represented a variety of schools from Warren County as well as surrounding counties. Each session was broken into age groups and then divided into teams based on age and skill level. The instructors included Alan Smith and Ryan Smith as well as other volunteers.

Each Saturday started with a one-hour session with the kindergarten and first-grade girls and boys. The players were taught the basic skills of pivoting, dribbling, passing and shooting along with about 30 minutes of playing each session.

"It's fun to see each and every player get better each week. Some of them come in having never played and they leave with an understanding of the basic offensive fundamentals and rules of the game," said coach Ryan Smith.

The second session went 90 minutes and included girls and boys from second grade and third grade.

It also included first-year players as well as more experienced players. Each session included groups working on fundamentals while another group scrimmaged. Each group would play a four-quarter game along with group instruction between quarters.

"Our second- and third-grade group always has a different variety of players," said Smith. "You have everything from kids that have never played before to kids that have

been playing for four or five years. We adjust our instruction and groups based on the age and skill level of the players and try to make it a positive and fun experience for each child."

The last session included the fourth- and fifth-grade girls and boys. The emphasis was still on the basic fundamentals, but it also included more advanced ball-handling and shooting drills.

"We treat our last session like a practice. We include more in-depth shooting and ball handling drills along with trying to teach them about offensive spacing and defensive positioning," said Smith.

"I think it's great that more young players are given the opportunity to play basketball. I love that they have started the Little Pioneer League. We had some players that came to our league and later that day played in a Little Pioneer game. I think that is great and it will help to elevate the skill level of the basketball players in our county."

Covenant Basketball Academy is also offering a summer basketball camp in July along with a guard camp and post camp. The Summer camp will be offered to kindergarten thru sixth-grade players and will be designed similarly to the Saturday league. The guard and post camps will be offered to boys and girls in grades 6-12 and will have advanced sessions that include teaching players the mental and physical aspect of basketball. Sessions will include advanced drills to help improve offensive and defensive fundamentals.

More information on dates and times for the upcoming summer camps will be included in future sports briefs.

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