

THE ART OF RACING

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Harvick and Fords surging

For the second straight weekend, Kevin Harvick scored a victory in dominating fashion in the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series. After doing so at Atlanta one week ago, he backed it up with a win at Las Vegas Motor Speedway Sunday. Winning both stages in dominating fashion, Harvick held off drivers who used different race strategies, and outlasted Kyle Busch for the win.

For the second straight week, Harvick led the most laps (214 of 267) and won the race. This was the 100th win of his career. While Harvick has never won three races in a row in his career, the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series heads to his favorite track in Phoenix next weekend. It's by far Harvick's best track, where he's posted eight wins, easily the most of any Cup driver all time.

A win at the hometown track is always special for a driver, so there was extra incentive for Kurt and Kyle Busch at Las Vegas. Kurt qualified a respectable third, but a cut tire on lap 183 sent him into the wall and ended his day in 35th place.

Younger brother Kyle used some race strategy to gain on Harvick, but in the end had to settle for second.

So far this year, the Fords are looking hard to beat with Stewart/Haas and Team Penske looking strong. Joey Logano, Dave Blaney and Brad Keselowski are sitting second, third, and seventh for Team Penske, while Harvick, Clint Bowyer, Aric Almirola and Kurt Busch sit first, 11th, 12th and 13th for SHR.

The addition of Almirola has SHR smiling. Providing top of the line equipment, SHR always expects to do well. Seven years ago, Danica Patrick was added to the team and could not keep up with the successes the other SHR drivers had. After 191 races, Patrick had zero wins, zero top 5's, one pole, and has only finished as high as 24th in the standings. Patrick's background was in open-wheel cars and she had little or no knowledge of stock cars. Her main contribution to the team was in marketing. Before her first Cup race of her career, Patrick was just behind Jeff Gordon and Tony Stewart in sales.

Almirola has replaced Patrick in the No. 10 Ford and posted his first top 10 of the year (the same number of top 10s as Patrick had in the No. 10 car last year) and has finished 13th or better in all three races. No one is saying why Patrick was released from SHR, but Almirola's success so far may indicate that the driver's ability may have something to do with it.



Jeffery Simmons photo

Jerry Mrema attacks the ball during Tuesday's scrimmage against St. Andrew's Sewanee. Mrema is expected to be a big part of the Pioneers this season as the team sets its sights on a District 6AAA title.



Photo courtesy of Painted Barn media

Senior James Jackson showed off his scoring prowess Tuesday, netting two in a scrimmage.

WCHS soccer has high hopes

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

When you hire a coach who has won five straight championships, the intent is pretty clear. The Warren County High School soccer team has expectations to add to its trophy case, and Matt Jackson is the man tasked with guiding the Pioneers to titles. "I'm excited to be coaching these guys again," said Jackson. "We had so much success at the middle school level. I want to see if we can continue at the high school level."

Jackson was fresh off his fifth consecutive Tennessee Conference championship last spring when he took the job at WCHS. He takes over a squad which qualified for the region tourna-

ment last year, and brings back a load of talent.

Coach Jackson knew most of the roster before inheriting the team, having coached most of them previously. Three Pioneers though share an even closer bond with their new coach.

Jackson has three sons on the team: senior James Jackson, sophomore Josiah Jackson and freshman John Jackson. All three are expected to make big impacts on the varsity level.

James is the team's leading returning scorer, and has been an offensive threat since his freshman season. In Tuesday's scrimmage against St. Andrew's Sewanee, the eldest Jackson showed why he's one of the most feared strikers in the state.

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Taking two

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

Losing didn't sit well with the WCMS Lady Pioneers.

Following its first loss of the season Monday, the Lady Pioneer softball team bounced back with back-to-back wins, both in impressive fashion. Warren County avenged Monday's 7-4 home loss with a 10-1 road victory over Coffee County Tuesday, then came back home to down Prescott South 5-1 Wednesday.

"Our bats are starting to come around," said first-year coach Joe Damon.

"We've been making the plays we need to defensively and we have two outstanding pitchers and catchers helping us out. Now the offense is starting to really perk up too."

Warren County (4-1) trounced Coffee County a day after letting chances slip away at home. The Lady Pioneers got off to a quick start, scoring two runs in each of the first two innings before blowing the game wide open with a four-run fourth inning. Two more runs in the fifth came in as the Lady Pioneers collected 10 runs on 15 hits.

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Jeffery Simmons photo

Madison Hollis gets a hit during Wednesday's game against Prescott. Hollis has helped at the plate and in the circle in the Lady Pioneers' last two wins.

McMINNVILLE CITY EASTER EGG HUNT

March 31st at The Jungle Jym

6:00pm: 3 yrs & under
6:30pm: 4-6 yrs
7:00pm: 7-10 yrs
7:30pm: 11-14 yrs

* Please Bring Your Own Bag or Basket
* Flashlights are encouraged

500 Garfield Street | McMinnville Civic Center | 931-473-1212

ADMISSION: \$3
ADVANCE TICKETS: \$2