



jeffery Simmons photo  
**Conner Nunley takes part in the 4x200 relay for the WCMS boys track team. Nunley placed third in the long jump in last week's home meet.**

# WCMS track in action

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**  
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*(McMinnville, Tennessee)*

Even though it's called track and field, most athletes have to choose track or field. Not Savannah Winfree.

The WCMS standout helped the Lady Pioneers place second in last week's home event, medaling in three individual events.

Winfree displayed her power in winning the shotput and finishing third in discus, then showed her speed by placing fourth in the 200 meters.

Winfree scored eight points for Warren County, almost one fifth of the team's 41-point total. Coffee County won the event with 47 points, while Franklin North finished third with 35 points.

In shotput, Winfree was able to put distance between her and the

competition with a toss of 29 feet, 4 inches. She followed with a 54-foot, 11-inch throw in discus, barely edging teammate Chloe Volf's toss of 52 feet, 3 inches that placed fourth.

Paige Sweeton showed her skills in the jumping competition, placing third in both the high jump and long jump. Sweeton flew to a distance of 12 feet, 1 inch in the long jump and cleared a three-foot, 10-inch bar in the high jump.

Kyra Perkins hit the same mark in the high jump, leaving the teammates tied for third. Perkins was involved in three track victories, winning the 400-meter race with a time of 1:13 and also taking part in two relay wins – the 4x200 and 4x400.

Other standout performances for the Lady Pioneers included Breanna Harris taking

second in the 100 meters (13.0 seconds), Carmen Verdel taking second in both the 800 (3:00) and 1600 (6:25) and Arica Walker finishing fourth in the long jump with a leap of 11 feet, 4 inches.

In the boys competition, the Pioneers had trouble keeping up with Coffee County and Franklin North.

Coffee County won the event with a score of 56, while North had 50. Warren County finished at 17.

The Pioneer relay team helped the cause with second-place finishes in the 4x100 and 4x200 races.

Warren County also had third-place individual finishes by Jahaad Middleton (high jump, 4'6"), Conner Nunley and Alec Smith (tie, long jump, 12'4"), Riley Bundy (1600m, 5:43), Smith (400m, 1:05) and Julian Martinez (800m, 2:56).

## College

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Underhill was a late bloomer on the mound, only earning multiple starts his senior season at Warren County. For most of his Pioneer career, Underhill was known for his skills as a middle infielder, being a strong presence at the plate and coming up in the clutch.

As a sophomore, Underhill had the game-winning hit in the Pioneers' extra-inning region victory at Ooltewah. Underhill was also the winning pitcher in 2014 when the Pioneers won the District 6AAA tournament 8-3 over Cookeville.

Underhill and Frye will continue playing through the spring, with baseball fans in Warren County following with great interest.

# Pruitt looking for competitors

**KNOXVILLE (AP)** — Tennessee's Jeremy Pruitt is looking for one thing in particular as he begins his first spring practice as a head coach.

"We want to see who the competitors are," Pruitt said Tuesday after Tennessee completed its first practice. "We want to see who handles adversity."

Pruitt, the former Alabama defensive coordinator, is taking over a program that went 4-8 last season while setting a school record for losses and failing to win a single Southeastern Conference game.

The roster suffered some offseason losses when running back John Kelly, defensive tackle Kahlil McKenzie and defensive back

Rashaan Gaulden opted to bypass their senior seasons to enter the NFL draft. Kelly was the Vols' leading rusher and Gaulden arguably was their top defender.

Tennessee announced one more departure Tuesday, as Pruitt said reserve defensive lineman Quay Picou had left the team.

That leaves Tennessee with much work to do before the April 21 spring game.

"I told the kids this," Pruitt said. "You get 15 practices. Today was our first day, and we're never going to get it back. I hope everybody out there who's on the field took advantage of their opportunities."

Pruitt said his spring objectives include making

sure his players come together as a team and learn how to practice the right way. Pruitt also wants to see how much knowledge each position group can retain.

He says his practice sessions will have each player getting the same workload. Pruitt says that's the same approach he's seen in his previous stops as an assistant at Alabama, Florida State and Georgia.

"Whether you're a freshman, whether the guy's an all-SEC player or the guy's a walk-on, everybody gets the same amount of reps and we're going to coach them all the same way," Pruitt said.

Tennessee has plenty of questions on both sides of the ball.

Spring practice gives quarterback Jarrett Guar-

antano a chance to make an impression on the new coaching staff before Stanford graduate transfer Keller Chryst arrives this summer. Guarantano started six of Tennessee's final seven games last season as a redshirt freshman and completed 61.9 percent of his passes for 997 yards with four touchdowns and two interceptions.

The Vols lack healthy offensive linemen and won't have Trey Smith available for spring practice as he deals with an unspecified medical issue.

On defense, Tennessee must replace departed starting cornerbacks Justin Martin and Emmanuel Moseley while finding which players best fit the 3-4 scheme Pruitt prefers. Tennessee had run a 4-3 defense under former coach

Butch Jones, who was fired after going 34-27 in five seasons.

Pruitt said he'd spend the majority of Tennessee's practice time working with the defense. Pruitt adds that he's spending more time in the meeting rooms of the offense than the defense because he's more familiar with his defensive assistants. Pruitt has worked with most of Tennessee's defensive assistants before.

"When the football starts, I'm a defensive coach, so I'm going to spend most of my time on the defensive side," Pruitt said. "When we watch tape, we'll watch it as a staff and I'll sit there and I can see what the offense is doing, and if I have questions, I'll ask and have a good understanding of what they're trying to get done."

# Puzzlemania

PUZZLES ON PAGE 7A

## solutions

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