

THE ART OF RACING

ART
LARSON



Truex Jr. back at the top

We all knew Kevin Harvick's early success could not continue forever and California proved to be the stopping point. Starting 10th, Harvick's run did not last long as a lap-39 incident with Kyle Larson put him six laps down and eventually finishing 35th.

"I went down to side draft and he was coming up and we touched, and it just knocked the thing to the right and spun out," Harvick said after the race. "Don't know that it's his fault. I think that's my fault for coming down the racetrack right there and trying to side draft and then, as we touched, it just came back up the racetrack. I was just trying to get a little too much right there."

Defending champion Martin Truex Jr. showed the rest of the field that 2017 was not a fluke. Starting on the pole, Truex won both stages and cruised to a 12-second victory. Leading 125 laps, Truex put a lock on his first victory of 2018 in Sunday's Auto Club 400. He earned his 16th career win and first since last November at Homestead-Miami Speedway, the one that crowned him champion of the Cup Series.

"I knew we had a good racecar, honestly after the first adjustment of the race," Truex said. "From there, it was just managing my tires and being smart."

Not many lead changes were made during green flag racing, but there were 16 lead changes among seven drivers, most of them occurring during pit stop strategies. During the final green-flag pit stop, Kyle Busch beat Truex off pit road, but a crew member for the No. 18 team made a wrong adjustment. It was only a matter of time before Truex made the pass for the lead, one of multiple times he recovered from poor stops.

"We had a little trouble getting beat out of the pits and that was tough," Truex added. "We fell back to fifth [at one point], and we had to work our way back up front, and I really had to take care of my front tires. And once we had some clean air, it was unbelievable."

Truex's dominance put him on top of the leaderboard, nine points ahead of the third-place finisher, Kyle Busch. Joey Logano, Brad Keselowski, Ryan Blaney, Denny Hamlin, Kyle Larson, Harvick, Clint Bowyer and Aric Almirola make up the top 10 in the point standings.

The Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series moves to Martinsville Sunday, the shortest track on the schedule.



Photo courtesy: Guy Schafer/MMC Athletics

Former Pioneer Logan Underhill is a standout for Martin Methodist. A senior for the RedHawks, Underhill earned SSAC pitcher of the week for his performance in the season opener.



Photo courtesy: Milligan College sports information

Chayse Frye has continued his baseball career at Milligan College. The former Pioneer slugger is working to grow his role with the Buffaloes.

Still stars on the diamond

Underhill, Frye playing in college

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

Even though they've long since shed the Pioneer uniforms, two former baseball players are still carrying the mantle for Warren County.

Logan Underhill and Chayse Frye are showing their skills on the diamond at the college level. Underhill is a standout pitcher for Martin Methodist, while Frye is working his

way into the lineup at Milligan College.

Both former Pioneers have made multiple stops in college before settling at their current schools.

Underhill and Frye both spent their first two years playing at Jackson State, including sharing a year with the Generals in 2016. Underhill made the move to Martin Methodist the following year, while Frye exhausted his eligibility at Jackson State last spring.

Frye is in his first year at Milligan College, where he appeared in a several games early in the season. He's still working to carve out a consistent role, but he had his first hit for the Buffaloes in a Feb. 28 matchup with Middle Georgia State.

Frye is still a sure-handed first baseman and a big bat in the middle of the order, the two things which got him noticed as a Pioneer. Frye was an all-district honoree multiple times in Warren County, often leading the Pioneers in home runs and RBIs.

Now a senior, Underhill has made

a huge impact for Martin Methodist. He was the team's starting pitcher in the season opener, earning a win against No. 6 Missouri Baptist. Underhill's strong outing, where he allowed only one run in five innings, earned him the SSAC pitcher of the week honor.

Currently, Underhill is 2-3 with 4.09 ERA for one of the surprise teams in the SSAC. Both of Underhill's wins – the second against University of Mobile (Ala.) – have come against ranked teams.

Continued on **2B**

Cold weather, colder bats



Jeffery Simmons photo

Ethan Smith, pictured playing at home, had one of the Pioneers' two hits in a 3-0 loss at Rhea County Tuesday.

Pioneers shut out in district showdown

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

A cold start of spring seemed to take hold of the Warren County High School baseball team's bats.

The Pioneers were shut out on the road Tuesday, falling 3-0 in a District 6AAA matchup with Rhea County.

Warren County (2-5) was held to just two hits, which came from the first two batters in the first inning. The Pioneers went without a hit the rest of way, including going down in order the final four innings.

Ricky Guthrie silenced the Pioneer bats, going all seven innings and striking out eight – three coming in the seventh inning after the Eagles took the lead in the bottom of the sixth.

The Pioneers had a stand-out pitching performance of

their own, only to see it unravel in the sixth inning. Senior Tyler Hollingsworth cruised through the first five innings, allowing only two hits and retiring Rhea County in order through three innings.

Warren County ran into trouble in the sixth inning, when Reece Cooley started the inning with a double. Looking to back up Guthrie with a run, the Eagles tried to get Cooley closer to home with a sac bunt. Instead, the Pioneers helped him come all the way around.

Hollingsworth scampered off the mound to get the bunt, but his throw sailed over the head of his first baseman. Cooley coasted in with ease, while Rhea County got another runner in scoring position with no outs.

Continued on **3B**

McMINNVILLE CITY SCAVENGER HUNT

March 26th - March 31st

Register before March 26th and receive an extra clue
\$3 per person • Registration at Civic Center
500 Garfield Street • McMinnville, TN • 931.473.1212

STARTS AT THE CIVIC CENTER & LEADS ALL OVER TOWN!!!

Parks and Recreation
McMinnville
WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE
See Natural!