

SIMMONS SAYS

**JEFFERY
SIMMONS**



Spring break at the office

Spring break is a slow time for sports. Add in a Warren County blizzard (where there's no snow, but everybody posts on Facebook about seeing flakes) and it becomes a tough week to be a sports editor.

Usually this is the time any story idea gets due attention, when anything thrown at the dart board can be a story. Good thing for me, a dart board magically appeared at our office Thursday.

We work hard in the *Southern Standard* editorial room, but we play even harder. So introducing a competitive game into the mix can sometimes completely stall out all writing as people battle for bragging rights.

It's only been a couple days, but a hierarchy of talent has already been established.

This is the first ever *Southern Standard* dart throwing power rankings.

SETH WRIGHT – A 20-year tenure working with computers hasn't weakened Wright's wrist. By virtue of winning all but one match-up, Wright gets the early title as the office's best marksman. It's a title he'll have to defend on a daily basis.

PAT ZECHMAN – There's photo evidence of the long-time publisher tossing a bull's-eye, but skeptics believe the picture was posed. Zechman doesn't fall farther than second though, mostly because she's the boss and can toss the board in the trash.

MYSELF – I attest that my quick math skills would make me the No. 1 player at 301, 501 or any other count-down game, but we've mostly stuck to playing cricket (requiring the thrower to mark three times on 15-20 and bull's eyes). Precision throwing isn't my game. Despite growing up wearing Peyton Manning's No. 16 jersey, I seem allergic to hitting the number on the dartboard.

MARGARET HOBBS – Our longtime lifestyles editor hasn't attempted a single throw yet, but word is she used to be the ringer in the office wiffle ball game.

LACY GARRISON – She's the total wildcard, but here's a hearty congratulations to our newest news reporter. Welcome to the team.

LISA HOBBS/NIKKI CHILDERS – Best buds in the newsroom, Hobbs and Childers are waiting for the first doubles game to break out to show their true skills.

JAMES CLARK – The closest our esteemed editor has come to the dartboard is when an errant dart goes flying into his office. A former college athlete, Clark probably would be an excellent dart thrower, but he may be saving his aim for his true passion – cornhole.

I'll return to my regularly scheduled sports talk next week, when games are happening nightly and the new dartboard probably magically disappears as quickly as it appeared.

Snapping the skid

Pioneers topple Tullahoma

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

It was the outcome coach Trice Powers waited for all spring break.

The Warren County High School baseball team snapped a five-game slide Friday night, downing Tullahoma 9-6 on its home field.

Dylan Ward earned the victory, going four-plus innings while allowing just one run while striking out two. He got a big boost from Brooks Helton, who provided the run support with a 3-for-4 outing and four RBIs.

After five straight losses, the last thing the Pioneers needed was a rough start, but that's how Friday's game began. Tullahoma scratched a quick run in the opening inning, aided by an error and a dropped third strike that put two runners on base.

Ward would mitigate the errors, but not before Levi Turner's RBI single made it 1-0.

Warren County (3-6) didn't wake up offensively until the third inning, but the floodgates flew open for the Pioneers after scoring just two runs in their previous 16 innings.



Brooks Helton watches one of his three hits sail into the outfield against Tullahoma. Helton had four RBIs in Warren County's 9-6 victory, which ended a five-game losing streak.

Jeffery Simmons photo

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Hailey Wood, pictured in an earlier home game, had two hits in Friday's two games in the Ooltewah Invitational. Warren County lost both games, the first two losses this season for the Lady Pioneers.

Jeffery Simmons photo

Double dipped

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

After starting the season with four wins, two in thrilling fashion, everything seemed rosy for the Lady Pioneers.

The Ooltewah Classic showed the Warren County High School softball team still has room to grow. Warren County started play Friday in the tournament with back-to-back losses, falling 8-1 to Ooltewah and 5-2 to Franklin County.

Spring break may have soaked into the Lady Pioneers a little, especially when play began. The host school jumped on Warren County quick, scoring two runs in the first inning and four more in the second as the Lady Owls built a 6-0 lead.

The Lady Pioneers struggled to gain traction against Kayla Boseman, who struck out 11 and helped her cause with a two-run homer in the second inning.

Warren County (4-2) didn't get on the scoreboard until the fourth, when senior Hope Mullican smacked a single into right field that allowed Emily Mikkola to score from second.

Ooltewah responded with two more runs in the bottom of the frame and cruised to victory in the five-inning affair. Mullican's single was one of only two hits, with Brianna Young adding a second-inning single.

Maddie Cantrell took the

loss, going all four innings and allowing eight runs on seven hits. Three errors hurt the Lady Pioneers cause, as the Lady Owls scored just three earned runs.

Warren County wasn't able to regroup in the second half of back-to-back games.

After the Lady Pioneers had battled back from a 2-0 hole in the first inning to tie the Lady Rebels, Franklin County scored three runs in the bottom of the fifth to win.

Hailey Wood tried her best to push Warren County to victory. Wood scored on an error in the fourth to make it 2-1, then drove in McKenna Mason with a single in the fifth to knot the score.

Franklin County had the answer though.

Facing Lady Pioneer ace Ashton Whiles, who entered in relief in the fifth for starter Rhealee Johnson, the Lady Rebels used patience at the plate to win.

Franklin County sandwiched two singles around a walk to load the bases, then scored on a walk on a pay-off pitch. A two-run single followed, giving the Lady Rebels a big cushion with the time limit running down.

Warren County had a chance to tie when two-out singles by Sadie Simmons and Samantha Jennings brought the tying run to the plate, but Mason grounded out to end the game.

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DR. JEFFREY S. PETERSON
HAILEY TAYLOR, FNP-C
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