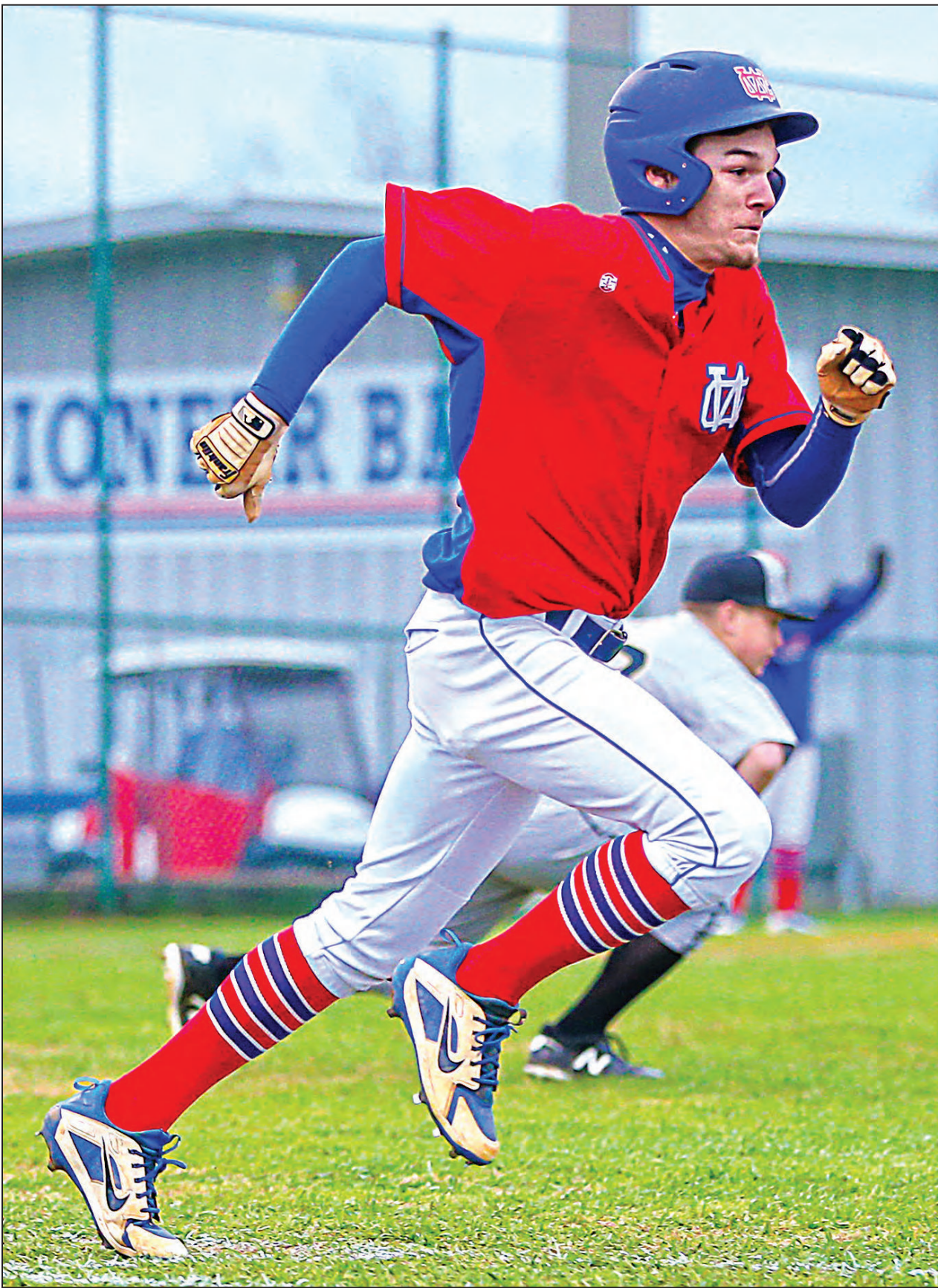


Running away with win



Ethan Smith sprints to first during Monday's game against Stone Memorial. Smith had four hits to help Warren County down Stone Memorial 12-2 in District 6AAA action.

Jacob Dodd photo

Smith stars in Pioneer blowout

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

The bats seem to come alive every time Stone Memorial visits Patrick Ramsey Field.

The Pioneers smoked their District 6AAA foes for the second time Monday, winning 12-2 in five innings. Warren County also defeated the Panthers 10-0 to open the season at home March 14.

Ethan Smith led the way with a 4-for-4 day at the plate, including two hits in the fifth when the Pioneers scored nine runs to end the game by run rule. Smith provided the winning hit, smoking a shot into left field to allow the 12th run to cross.

"It felt like déjà vu. It was a lot like the first game," said coach Trice Powers. "Their kids did a good job early, but by the third time around we started to adjust and turn it on."

Along with scoring at will against Stone Memorial – the Pioneers' two double-digit scoring games this season have both been against the Panthers – Tyler Hollingsworth also turned in another solid start in district play.

Hollingsworth pitched all five innings, allowing just one hit while giving up two runs and striking out six. Hollingsworth started out on fire, striking out the side in the first inning and retiring the first nine batters he faced.

"Tyler got out and competed. I wouldn't say he had his A stuff, but he

competed well enough to turn in a quality start," said Powers. "He had a strong mentality and grit. The defense made some plays to help him out as well."

The Pioneers wasted little time getting out front, with Hunter Adams and Smith leading off with back-to-back singles. Brooks Helton scored Adams with a sac fly, then Jack Keele doubled to make it 2-0 in the first inning.

Smith and Keele were back in the middle of the scoring in the third. Smith reached on a one-out single, then moved to third on an error. Keele lifted an 0-2 shot into right field, giving Smith enough time to score on the tag to make it 3-0.

Stone Memorial found a little offense in the fourth when Hollingsworth started the inning by hitting one batter and walking another. A strikeout followed, but a wild pitch pushed both runners into scoring position with one out. A RBI groundout followed by a run-scoring single drew the Panthers within one at 3-2.

The Pioneers made sure once their offense clicked in the fifth, there would be no time left for a comeback.

Warren County sent eight straight batters to the plate in the fifth without recording an out, with Cole Estes starting the frame with a double. Adams, Smith, Helton and Keele followed with singles, allowing two runs to score.

Continued on 3B

Bring out the brooms

Lady Pioneers sweep Coffee County

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

When the Lady Pioneers beat Coffee County in the second game of the season, those closest to the program believed it was the first victory over the border rival in 16 years.

Warren County didn't have to wait nearly as long for a second win.

Just 13 days after downing Coffee County 3-1 at home, the Lady Pioneers went on the road and grounded out a 5-4 victory over the Lady Raiders.

"Our girls played complete games this year against Coffee County," said Warren County coach Gooby Martin. "It's a really good program and we have to play near perfect to beat them."

"They've had success for a long time and will continue it with the student ath-

letes they have. It feels good as a program to win and continue to build to what we are trying to accomplish as a team."

Warren County (9-3) scored two runs in the each of the first two innings, then held strong late as Coffee County made a last-ditch effort to rally in the bottom of the seventh.

The Lady Pioneers led 5-3 entering the final frame and freshman Rhealee Johnson was tasked with defending the lead.

Working in relief, Johnson allowed a lead-off double to Abigail Parker. Katie Rutledge, a preseason all-state selection, came to the plate representing the tying run, but Johnson was able to force her to ground out to first base.

Ashley Evans followed with a run-scoring double, bringing Coffee County to 5-4 with one out and one on.

Johnson calmly forced the

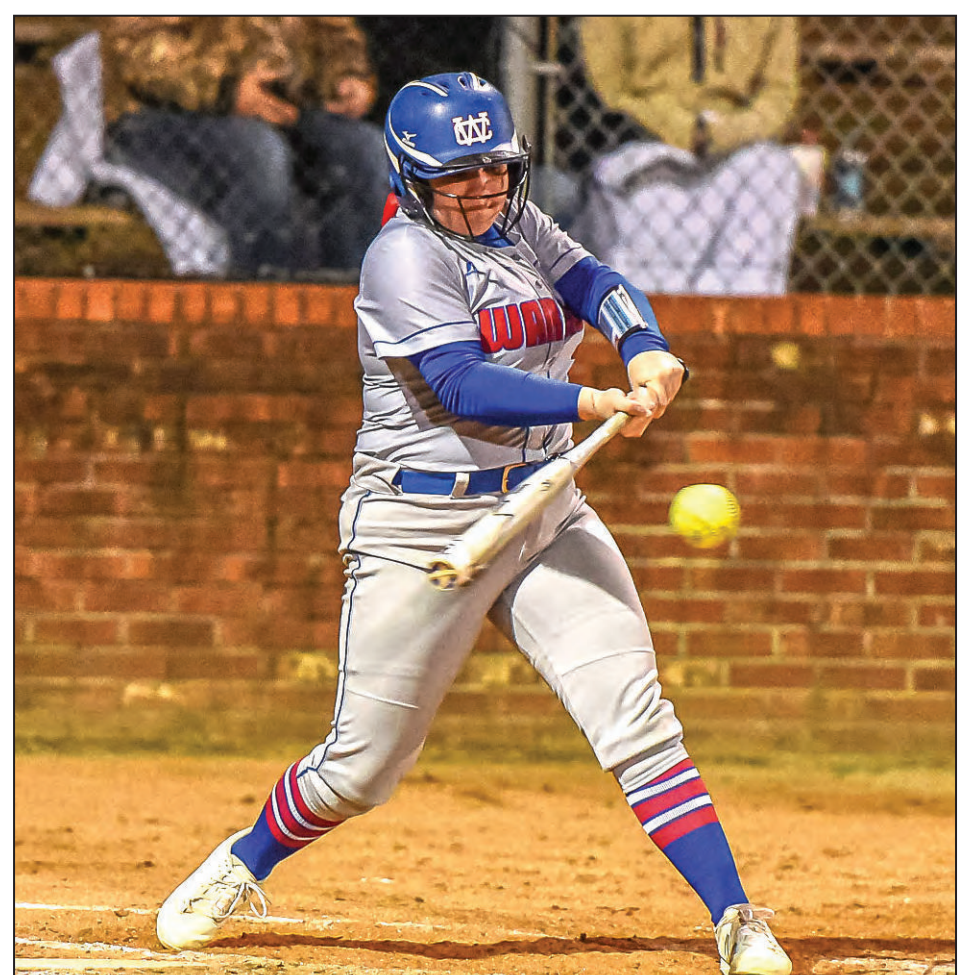
next batter to ground out to second, but had to face Sarah West – Coffee County's clean-up hitter – with two outs and the tying run on third.

With the count full and tension building, Johnson froze West with a perfectly placed fastball, a called third strike that gave Warren County the victory.

"We called fastball down and away and Rhealee hit her sport perfect," said Martin. "She's very talented and coachable. She's only going to get better."

The Lady Pioneers didn't waste too much time jumping on Coffee County. After a lead-off walk, Emily Mikkola drilled a double into right field to bring Hailey Wood in to score. A crucial two-out error allowed Mikkola to score, giving Warren County an early 2-0 lead.

Continued on 2B



Maddie Cantrell was a threat at the plate and in the circle for the Lady Pioneers Monday. Cantrell was the winning pitcher in Warren County's 5-4 victory over Coffee County.

Photo courtesy of Painted Barn Media

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