

Crushed by Cookeville



Jeffery Simmons photo
WCHW sophomore Josiah Jackson had a busy night against Cookeville. The Pioneer keeper was overwhelmed by Cavaliers, who scored three times in the first 15 minutes en route to a 5-0 victory Tuesday night.

McBride shines in win

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

Marli McBride put on a show at the plate Tuesday.

McBride hit a grand slam and an inside-the-park home run while leading the WCMS softball team to a 12-0 win over Tullahoma, the team's eighth straight victory during a 10-1 start to the season.

"The girls are doing great. They've worked really hard to earn this level of success," said Joe Damon, who is in his first year with the Lady Pioneers.

McBride was the highlight of an offensive outburst, hitting homers in each of the first two innings. Already ahead 2-0 in the first, McBride barely missed sending the first pitch she saw flying over the fence. The line drive to right field easily scored Juju Pyburn, while McBride showed off her speed by circling the bases for her first home run.

In the second inning, Warren County plated two early runs and loaded the bases for McBride. Ahead 6-0, McBride again found a pitch she liked and sailed a shot into center field. The shot sailed out – McBride's first home run over the fence – and Lady Pioneers gathered at home to celebrate the grand slam that made it 10-0.

An error and run-scoring single by Shelby Roberts pushed the advantage to 12-0 by the end of the inning.

Madison Hollis did the rest.

The Lady Pioneer pitcher turned in a dominant performance, facing only 13 batters in four innings of work. Hollis surrendered just one hit, a second-inning single, while striking out eight to earn her fourth victory.

Hollis also added two hits and two RBIs, while Roberts and Danika Reno also had two hits each. Mea Starkey added one hit and one RBI. Aleya Esparza also had an RBI.



Jeffery Simmons photo
Marli McBride proudly displays her grand slam ball from Tuesday's 12-0 win over Tullahoma.

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MLB season begins with Happ homer

MIAMI (AP) — Ian Happ homered on the first pitch of the major league season, and Anthony Rizzo made his emotional homecoming even more memorable with a home run, leading the Chicago Cubs past Derek Jeter's Miami Marlins 8-4 Thursday.

Rizzo homered into the upper deck in the second inning — an unscripted tribute to the victims of last month's shooting at his former high school in Parkland, Florida. As he crossed home plate, Rizzo patted his chest and pointed to the sky.

Both teams wore patches to honor those killed, and Rizzo plans to host four families of the victims at Friday's game.

Happ, playing in his first opening day game, pulled Jose Urena's first pitch into the seats to give the Cubs the fast start they sought. They're eager to replicate the quick get-away in 2016 that helped propel them to their first World Series title in 108 years.

Kyle Schwarber also homered for Chicago, which overcame two errors and a rocky start by Jon Lester.

Jeter, who homered in a win in his first opening day with the Yankees in 1996, had less success in his debut as the Marlins' CEO. But a lively crowd of 32,151 on a mild, sun-splashed afternoon — with the retractable roof open — hinted at the franchise's potential if Jeter can build a winner.

Doubles by Kris Bryant and Wilson Contreras in the fourth put the Cubs ahead to stay. Tommy La Stella contributed a pinch-hit, two-run double.

The Cubs bullpen, revamped after a dismal 2017 postseason, shut out Miami over the final 5 2-3 innings, allowing only one hit. Newcomer Steve Cishek (1-0) stranded four runners in two scoreless innings.

Lester, making his seventh opening day start, lasted only 3 1-3 innings and allowed four runs, three earned.



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