

Garcia leads Pioneers to victory



Jeffery Simmons photo

Joan Garcia, pictured in a previous game, scored twice Wednesday in WCMS soccer's 2-0 victory in Tullahoma.

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

When all else isn't working, the WCMS soccer team has one fall back on offense. Just find Joan Garcia and let him go to work.

Garcia scored two goals, both coming in the second half, in a 2-0 victory over Tullahoma Wednesday. The win helped Warren County improve to 3-1 in Central Tennessee Conference play, a nice start in the first season under new coach Ario Zadeh.

"These boys deserve it because they work hard," said Zadeh. "They make the team great. This is a special bunch. I'm excited to be 3-1 in conference play."

Scoring was at a premium after a first half of close calls didn't connect.

Warren County and Tullahoma each had several chances, but neither could connect. The Pioneers were able to preserve the shutout with a stingy defense and Brodie Cowans making big saves.

Knowing one goal may be all that it would take to win, Warren County opened the second half with renewed vigor offensively. Locating Garcia, who has already had a hat trick in competition this season, was the key.

Uriah King got a clean run on the right side early in the second half, using his speed to bring the ball near the net. With King drawing the eye of the Tullahoma defense, Garcia was able to sneak into open space in the middle of the field.

King spotted his teammate, putting a perfect pass on Garcia's foot in

front of the Tullahoma goal. Garcia unleashed a low shot toward the corner, sneaking it in to put the Pioneers up 1-0.

Late in the half, King drew a penalty on the Tullahoma keeper to earn a penalty kick. Zadeh chose Garcia to take the PK, which he buried to give his team some much-needed breathing room.

Cowan made sure of the shutout in the waning seconds, making a diving save just before the final whistle blew.

"It was a great game," said Zadeh. "It seems like we're a second-half team. We came out with new life in the second half."

The Pioneers get the weekend off before getting back to action Monday at home against Siegel. Kickoff is set for 5 p.m.

Lady Pioneers fall in Cookeville

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

Fatigue seemed to catch up with the Lady Pioneers at the worst time.

Coming off a busy first two weeks of the season, the WCHS softball team lost 9-1 in Cookeville Tuesday, a surprising blowout in an anticipated matchup between two District 6AAA powerhouses.

"I think we were physically tired. We were playing our 12th game in 14 days," said WCHS coach Gooby Martin. "We came out flat. We didn't play well defensively and pitched from behind in the count all game. We can't do those things and be successful as a team."

Cookeville pounced on the Lady Pioneers early, building a 5-0 lead in the first two innings, highlighted by Sydney Kirby's solo shot in the second inning.

Having a healthy advantage only made Morgan Radford — one of the Midstate's top pitchers — tougher in the cir-

cle. The hard-throwing lefty finished with eight strikeouts while throwing a complete game for the victory.

Warren County (9-4) finished with seven hits, but oftentimes struggled to hit with runners in scoring position. The Lady Pioneers scored their lone run in the fourth, with Maddie Cantrell's two-out, pinch-hit single scoring Rhealee Johnson.

Cookeville came back with three more runs in the fourth, ending starter Ashton Whiles' night. The junior took the loss, allowing eight runs on 11 hits while striking out two and walking three.

Freshman Sadie Simmons pitched the final two innings, allowing one run — a solo shot to Molly Smith — on three hits.

Warren County was scheduled to play Thursday at home against Huntland, but the game was cancelled due to rain. Weather permitting, the Lady Pioneers will travel to Huntland Friday for a 5:30 p.m. contest.



Jeffery Simmons photo

Ashton Whiles' 3-for-3 night at the plate wasn't enough to help the Lady Pioneers. Warren County lost 9-1 in a district showdown at Cookeville.

WCHS baseball

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Stone Memorial was able to get out of a bases-loaded jam with an inning-ending double play, but the early scoring was just the start — and more than enough support for Keele.

Keele faced the minimum through the first three innings, only allowing a single in the third

before inducing a ground-ball that turned into a double play. By the time Stone Memorial got its first hit, Warren County already led 7-0.

Keele helped his own cause with an RBI double in the second inning, capping a three-run frame. An error and RBI ground-out by Helton helped push Warren County ahead 5-0.

After Tyler Hollingworth scored on a passed ball and Cole Estes hit a sacrifice play in the third inning, the Pioneers were up 7-0.

Stone Memorial scratched its lone run across in the fourth, aided by two Pioneer errors. Back-to-back booted balls put runners on the corners and Keele surrendered a run-scoring single

before finishing the fourth with three strikeouts.

The Panthers gave Warren County three runs back in the fifth. The Pioneers took advantage of four free passes and an error to get into double digits. Helton was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded and two outs to make it 10-1 after an error

and Hunter Adams' sacrifice fly plated two Pioneers.

Warren County closed out the scoring in the seventh with an RBI ground-out by Helton and sac fly by Keele.

The Pioneers are slated to take part in the Warrior Spring Classic this weekend in Murfreesboro.

Weather permitting, Warren County will face Smyrna on Friday at 4 p.m., Summit at 12:30 p.m. Saturday and Riverdale at 3 p.m. Saturday. Friday's game will be played at Smyrna High School, while Saturday's games are scheduled to be played at Riverdale.

WCHS tennis

Continued from page 1B

Warren County was scheduled to play Thursday at home, but rained forced a postponement. The Pioneers and Lady Pioneers return to action Tuesday,

April 3 with an away match against Livingston Academy.

**LADY CAVALIERS 8
LADY PIONEERS 1**

SINGLES — Katie Ward def. Rachel Stewart (WC)

8-0; Lee (WC) def. Livingston 9-8; Sarah Buchanan def. Beth Vaughn (WC) 6-5, retired; Blakely Humphrey def. Zoe Wilcher (WC) 8-0; Maria Agbunag def. Haleigh Arnold (WC) 8-0; Lily Nabors def. Mary St. Clair (WC) 8-0.

DOUBLES — Ward-Livingston def. Stewart-Vaughn (WC) 8-3; Buchanan-Agbunag def. Lee-Wilcher (WC) 8-2; Molly Jo Simpson-Emmaleah Mayer def. Arnold-St. Clair (WC) 8-1.

**CAVALIERS 8
PIONEERS 1**

SINGLES — Bates (WC) def. Groundland 8-6; Matthew Norman def. Briley Bolding (WC) 8-0; Seth Stransky def. Ryan Salaman (WC) 8-0; Eli Apple def. Benjamin Campos (WC) 8-1; Ben Silberman def. Jorge Sifuentes (WC) 8-0; Cookeville win, forfeit.

DOUBLES — Silberman-Norman def. Bates-Bolding (WC) 8-1; Fain-Vivek Kotla def. Salaman-Campos (WC) 8-2; Cookeville win, forfeit.

Puzzlemania solutions

PUZZLES ON PAGE 6A

CELEBRITY CIPHER

"If there's specific resistance to women making movies, I just choose to ignore that as an obstacle." — Kathryn Bigelow



SUDOKU

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4	6	2	9	1	8	3	5	7
5	3	7	2	4	6	9	1	8
9	1	8	5	3	7	2	4	6

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