

Jackson shines in WCHS victory

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS
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(McMinnville, Tennessee)

If White County didn't already know James Jackson is one of the most lethal goal scorers in the state, they found out quickly Tuesday.

Jackson scored four goals, including one in the first 15 seconds, to help the Pioneers to 7-0 road victory and their first District 6AAA win.

The senior was spectacular from the opening kick-off. White County had the initial possession and opted to pass back in its own zone.

Jackson immediately gave chase, ultimately gaining control in the middle of the White County defense. He wasted no time getting a shot off from deep, one that buried in the back of the net before the Warriors seemed to know what happened.

The defense tried to pack in the rest of the half, but

Jackson found ways to work around a stacked backline.

Midway through the first half, Jackson was able to take control of the ball in the middle of the field. Instead of working to advance, Jackson again showed off his aim from distance to make it 2-0.

Josh Macanus made it a three-goal game minutes later, with his header off a Jackson pass beating the White County keeper.

Jackson scored just before halftime to give Warren County a 4-0 advantage.

The second half started out much like the first, though a different Jackson brother got the pay off. Freshman John Jackson worked deep into the White County zone, getting a centering pass and hammering it home 40 seconds into the half.

James tallied his fourth goal midway through the

second half before Jake Toney closed the scoring with a good finish in the final minutes.

It was a big victory, and one that counted. Last week, the Pioneers held a 3-2 lead just before halftime on a rain-soaked field in Soddy Daisy. The game was stopped just minutes before the end of the half, which would have made the game official.

Coach Matt Jackson believes it's a step in the right direction for his squad.

"It was a good night to get us going forward," said coach Jackson. "We're going in the right direction and pushing to be strong at the end of the season."

Warren County faced Webb Thursday night at home in hopes of back-to-back wins. The score was unavailable at press time. Check Sunday's paper for more coverage of the WCHS soccer team.



Photo provided
James Jackson scored four goals in Tuesday's 7-0 victory at White County.



Jeffery Simmons photo

Will Cantrell had a RBI single in Tuesday's 3-1 win over the Warriors.

WCHS baseball

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Brooks Helton provided an early spark, coming up with a clutch two-out single in the first. Will Cantrell made it 2-0 in the second, sending a deep shot into the right-field gap to bring around John Garrett.

The Pioneers tacked on a pivotal insurance run in the sixth, getting a sacrifice fly from Wesley Jennings to score Garrett and make it a two-run game going into the final frame.

The final run, a clutch at-bat in a tight moment, stood out to Powers.

"The insurance run really changed the game. Having a two-run lead loosened things up a bit," said Powers. "Runs are a premium in district games. The best pitchers are always going. When you get a chance to score, you have to take advantage."

"It was important to scratch the run across there."

Keele shut the door in the seventh inning, sandwiching two strikeouts around a groundball to second base. Keele froze Chris Mills on a

2-2 pitch to end the game, his fifth and final strikeout.

Keele gave White County a glimmer of hope in the third. The Pioneer hurler hit Tucker Allen, then a wild pitch moved the Warrior into scoring position. Allen would score on Drew Young's single, cutting the lead in half.

Keele and Macon Girdley locked into a pitcher's duel from there. Girdley pitched out of jam in the fifth, allowing a walk to Ethan Smith and single to Cole Estes before retiring Keele and Helton to end the frame.

Keele matched his counterpart in the sixth. After a two-out double and walk, followed by a wild pitch, White County had the tying and go-ahead runs in scoring position. Keele calmly regrouped and blew a 1-2 pitch by Eli McDonald to end the threat.

The Pioneers are set to take part in the Rebel Classic over the weekend, weather permitting. Check the Southern Standard Twitter page @ sstandardsports for the latest game details.

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