

THE ART OF RACING



Will Carl Edwards return?

With NASCAR taking a week off, it gives me a chance to catch up on some news.

Carl Edwards is always being asked when he plans to return to racing. His answer has always been the same, "I don't have any plans to come back."

Since his departure, there have been rumors that Edwards would get involved in Missouri politics, perhaps running for Congress or Governor. Edwards has not ruled out that possibility entirely.

"I really believe in America and that the Constitution is a fair rule that's letting us have all of our success and our freedom," Edwards said. "So if sometime there's a chance for me to help that cause and lend some assistance to not letting us get off track, then heck yes. But there's nothing planned anytime soon."

Monster Energy, the NASCAR Cup Series title sponsor, has yet to sign an extension. They need more time to decide on their two-year option to renew for 2019-20. There's "little doubt" Monster Energy will re-up in the end. But how long can NASCAR wait? The previous title sponsor, Sprint, gave them nearly two years' notice they wouldn't renew and the sport still struggled to find a replacement. Monster Energy is putting the Cup Series in an extremely difficult position, vulnerable to the rug being pulled out from under them.

NASCAR has yet to sign a contract for the 2018 Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series banquet. If the sanctioning body doesn't come to terms with a venue in Las Vegas, the nine-year run in Sin City could come to an end. Should the banquet move, Charlotte or Nashville could be the primary potential locales.

Remember the Busch Clash? How about the Busch Pole Award? Well Anheuser-Busch and NASCAR announced this week that the Busch Beer brand will be back as the official beer of NASCAR. As a result, the Cup series pole winner will garner the Busch Pole Award on race weekends.

The 2019 NASCAR Hall of Fame nominees were announced last month. New nominees included Harry Gant, Kirk Shelmerdine, John Holman, Ralph Moody and Jeff Gordon. When debates are raging over drivers with less than 20 career wins, the standards have become pretty low. There still needs to be a revamping of the Hall of Fame process. The fact all 22 members of the nominating committee also are on the voting committee is ludicrous. The two entities need to be completely separate so there is no bias during the voting process.

Racing returns this Sunday at the Texas Motor Speedway.

Another day, another W



Hailey Wood prepares to take off during Tuesday's game. Wood scored twice in a 13-6 win, giving her 20 runs scored in 15 games this season.

Jeffery Simmons photos

Nine-run fifth inning powers Lady Pioneers

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

The Lady Pioneers aren't just comfortable playing from behind. They seem to relish it.

Warren County scored 12 unanswered runs Tuesday, flipping a five-run deficit into a 13-6 blowout victory over White County in District 6AAA play.

Coach Gooby Martin has praised his Lady Pioneers ability to flip games, from the first night when Warren County scored six runs in the seventh inning to beat Shelbyville. Tuesday night was more of the same, as the Lady Pioneers found a groove after falling behind 6-1.

"These girls don't panic. Falling behind is never the idea, but we have experience playing that way," said Martin. "They

feel if they keep working hard and grinding they will find a way to win."

The Lady Pioneers did just that against the Warriorettes.

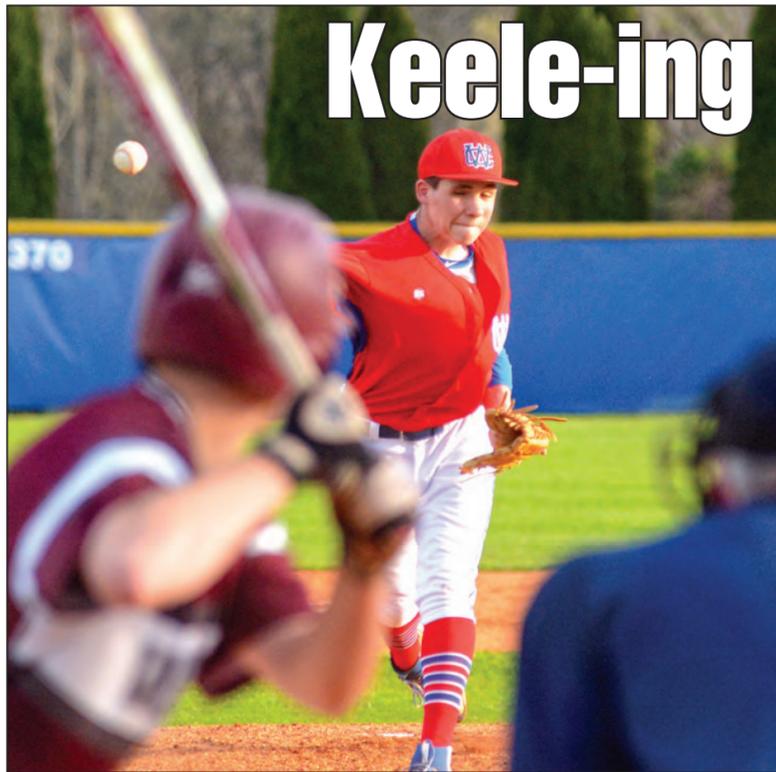
White County (11-4) jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first inning, with Sarah Parker's two-run home run providing the exclamation point. Parker added an RBI double in the third, answering a Lady Pioneer run in the first when Hailey Wood scored on a passed ball.

Warren County started to stabilize in the fourth inning, with Rhealee Johnson's pitching providing a boost. The freshman entered for Maddie Cantrell and immediately shut down White County, holding the visitors without a hit the final four innings while striking out 10.

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Coach Gooby Martin meets with starting pitcher Maddie Cantrell and catcher MaKenna Mason during Tuesday's contest.



Jack Keele went the distance in Warren County's 3-1 victory over White County Tuesday. The Pioneers moved into second in the district with the win.

Jeffery Simmons photo

Keele-ing them softly

Pioneers prevail in pitcher's duel

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

Pitching continues to be the pivotal point in District 6AAA games. It's a good thing the Pioneers have plenty of talented arms.

Jack Keele threw a complete game and Warren County added just enough timely hitting to pull out a 3-1 victory over White County Tuesday, its second win in as many nights over the Warriors.

The victory, Warren County's sixth in eight games, moved the Pioneers to 8-8 overall and 5-3 in district play, good for second in the current

standings. It also gave Warren County the series edge over White County 2-1.

Keele was a huge reason why, with his grit impressing coach Trice Powers.

"I thought Jack was real competitive. He did a good job," said Powers. "When push came to shove, he was ready. It may not have been his best start, but he got out of trouble and kept us in the game."

The Pioneers didn't have a big night at the plate, but they made the most of their few opportunities.

Continued on 4B



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