

**SIMMONS SAYS**

**JEFFERY  
SIMMONS**



## Aces in the hole

Sometimes the boring things are the most important part of sports. Nobody likes to assume an outcome can be boiled down to just one thing.

In baseball, it usually can. What happens on the rubber can win or lose a game quicker than anything else.

The Pioneers have found this out all season, especially in district play.

Warren County came into the season with high hopes. Coming off a 20-win campaign and a trip to the region tournament, the Pioneers expected to compete for a District 6AAA title.

After Monday's win at Cookeville, the Pioneers are sitting in second place with a 6-3 record. Another win Tuesday over the Cavaliers (the game was still in action at press time) would move Warren County in a dead heat for the district title.

Monday's meeting was a breakthrough for the Pioneers against Cavalier ace Joshua South. South was dominant in the first meeting, but Warren County chased the Belmont-bound starter after four innings.

South is part of one of the better starting combinations in the district. His teammate Tanner Killian, a solid lefty, is set to continue his career at Trevecca Nazarene.

Cookeville isn't the only team with two top-end starters though.

Rhea County sophomores Ricky Guthrie and Dawson Lytle are big arms for the Eagles. Guthrie, a righty, threw a two-hit shutout already against the Pioneers, while Warren County hasn't yet seen Lytle, a 6-foot-4 lefty already committed to Kentucky.

It'll take aces to win the district. Luckily, new WCHS coach Trice Powers is working with a pretty good deck himself.

Tyler Hollingsworth leads the team with five victories, four in district play. The senior is staking his case as the best starter in the district, boasting a .933 ERA in district games and has struck out 30 while allowing just 15 hits.

Jack Keele and Brooks Helton are getting better each outing as well. Keele, a sophomore, picked up a pair of district wins in the last two weeks, most recently throwing a complete game last week to beat White County.

Helton has done his damage in weekend tournaments. His 12-strikeout performance against Smyrna may have been the most dominant stretch for any Pioneer this season.

There's still a month to go before the district tournament begins. The Pioneers may not have the most well-known weapons in their arsenal, but coach Powers has enough to more than compete in the District 6AAA arms race.



Photo courtesy of Painted Barn Media  
**Madison Hollis blasts the game-winning double during Monday's 2-1 win over White County.**



Jeffery Simmons photo  
**Shelby Roberts sprints around third to score. Roberts and the Lady Pioneers won for the ninth straight time Monday.**

# Late-inning heroics

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

Madison Hollis was just waiting for the right pitch. She got it.

Hollis provided the heroics Monday, drilling a game-winning double in the bottom of the fifth to lift the WCMS softball team to a 2-1 victory over White County.

Warren County (12-1) needed everything Hollis could offer, including pitching five innings and holding White County without a run for the final four innings. Her performance in the circle was stellar, but it was her final at-bat that stole the show.

The Lady Pioneers trailed 1-0 entering the fifth, with each out threatening to bring to an end the team's eight-game winning

streak.

Bella Cantrell led off the fifth with a single, using her speed to reach after laying down a perfectly placed bunt. Mea Starkey used the same strategy, and a throwing error not only allowed her to reach, but moved both Lady Pioneers into scoring position.

With the tying run at third, coach Joe Damon was aggressive in trying to score. His opportuni-

ty arose on a wild pitch, when he sent Cantrell home. The speedster was able to slide in under the tag, much to the protest from the White County stands.

Starkey advanced to third on the pitch, but was picked off when she strayed too far away from the base on Shelby Roberts' bunt.

Continued on **2B**

## Back in action

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

It wasn't the debut the Warren County Middle tennis teams wanted, but the Pioneers and Lady Pioneers were just happy to be on the courts.

Both the Warren County girls and boys fell to visiting St. Andrew's Sewanee, losing 5-1 and 5-2, respectively.

"The players were a bit nervous for their season opener, but we rallied to win a few games and matches," said coach Susan Barrett. "It was nice to finally be able to get on the courts after matches being canceled by weather. St. Andrew's is always a tough team, but everyone seemed to have a great day."

Jackelyn Cordon had a highlight she won't soon forget, as she won her first ever match. Cordon defeated Shy Cleak 6-2 in singles play, the lone victory for the Lady Pioneers.

In other singles matches, Caroline Stewart was defeated by Hannah Mullins 6-0, Isabel Newby fell 6-3 to Sarah Brewster

and Bella Moser dropped a 6-1 decision to Madeline Sumpter.

In doubles, Stewart and Newby fell 6-4 to Mullins and Brewster while Cordon and Moser were downed 6-0 by Cleak and Sumpter.

Colin Riley was a standout for the Pioneers, winning both his singles and doubles matches. Riley defeated Dylan Kinningham 6-3, then paired with Ved Patel to beat Eli Thompson and Alex Waldrop 6-0.

Other Warren County boys matches included Patel falling to Brewster 6-0 in singles, Thompson topping Easton West 6-1, Wilder Higgins downed 6-0 by Cameron Crawford and Grayson Cleveland defeating Jase Todd 6-0. West and Higgins also fell 6-2 to Crawford and Dimitri Sherill in doubles.

Warren County will look to bounce back with a dual match at home Thursday. Webb and Providence Christian will both be in town to face the Pioneers and Lady Pioneers. Action is set to start at 4 p.m. at McMinnville Civic Center.



Jeffery Simmons photo  
**Isabel Newby works back to play a ball during her singles match Monday. The WCMS tennis teams fell to St. Andrews in their first action this season.**



# MOVIES

# IN THE PARK

March 31st at 7:45 pm

Cat Walker Field

\* If weather is too cold or wet, movie will be shown inside the Civic Center

500 Garfield Street | McMinnville Civic Center | 931-473-1212

Admission FREE

