

## Championship aspirations



Edgar Villegas and the WCMS soccer team are vying for a sixth straight CTC title. The Pioneers begin their title defense Wednesday at home against White County at 5 p.m.

Jeffery Simmons photos

## WCMS teams prepare for tourneys



Halo Armstrong and the WCMS softball team will play Thursday in Coffee County.

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

Championships were the talk of all the Warren County Middle School sports teams when the spring season started. Now it's time to see if titles will be won.

The Pioneer soccer and baseball teams will each be looking to defend their Central Tennessee Conference tournament titles in the next week, while the Lady Pioneer softball team is in search of its third championship in the last five years.

New soccer coach Ario Zadeh knew before he ever took the reins of the program how much pressure there would be to win. The Pioneers have won five CTC titles in a row, putting a target on their back every outing.

The WCMS soccer team starts its title defense Wednesday at home against White County and Zadeh believes his group is ready to roll.

"I'm very confident in our chances. We have grown a lot as a team and have to trust one another," said Zadeh. "These boys are hungry to

bring back the title again. They are an elite group and know what it takes to win at this level."

The opening round matchup with White County is set to start at 5 p.m. at Warren County High School. The Pioneers won the regular season matchup 8-1. With a win, Warren County would advance into the final four and play its semifinal game Saturday in Tullahoma. The championship game is also slated for Saturday in Tullahoma.

Coach Chad Young led the Pioneer baseball team to a perfect record last year en route to a title, but many of those players are now making contributions at WCHS. Warren County will enter this year as an underdog, starting Thursday with a game at White County at 6 p.m., but coach Young believes the tools are there to win again.

"I refuse to make excuses about how we've been playing. We have to flip a switch and come out swinging," said Young. "We will not go down without a fight. Our boys are fired up and ready to play."

Continued on 2B



Grace Rains and the Lady Pioneers will have to wait until Thursday to get back in action.

## Washed out

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

Making moves for District 6AAA crowns on the diamond have been dampened this week. Not by losses, but by lack of play.

The Pioneer baseball team and Lady Pioneer softball team each had pivotal district games postponed due to rain this week, spoiling each team's chances of cementing their status atop the standings.

The Pioneers were set to play a home-and-home series with Rhea County, which currently sits third in the district standings with a 5-4 record. Warren County holds the second spot at 7-3, trailing leading Cookeville's 9-2 mark.

Warren County (12-11) lost the first matchup with the Eagles 3-0 in March, but is hoping to bounce back with a sweep in its final two

district games. The games have been moved to Wednesday and Thursday at 6 p.m., weather permitting. The first game is set to be played at Patrick Ramsey Field, while the Pioneers hit the road Thursday.

The Lady Pioneers currently sit in the top spot in District 6AAA, controlling their destiny in hopes of back-to-back district titles. Warren County got some help from Rhea County last week when the Lady Eagles downed Cookeville in extra inning 5-4, handing the Lady Cavaliers their second district loss.

Warren County currently is 5-1 in district play, splitting its season series with Cookeville and already owning a 9-7 victory over Rhea County. The Lady Pioneers were set to play at home Tuesday against Stone Memorial, but the game has now been moved to next Tuesday, May 1. The first pitch is set for 5 p.m.

## Fye stars for WCHS track

Bethany Fye had her hand in almost all of the best finishes for the WCHS girls track team Saturday in the Tomahawk team championships held in Murfreesboro.

The senior standout won the triple jump, along with finishing in the top five in shotput, the 200-meter race and running a leg for the fifth-place 4x200 relay team.

Fye, already committed to play volleyball at the next level for Asbury College, showed her multi-sport skills among hundreds of competitors at the Riverdale event. Fye flew through the air for a 31-foot, 3-inch mark in the triple jump, besting her closest competitor by more than a foot.

She also showed her strength in the shotput, flinging a throw 30'8.5" for third place. Fye's efforts in the shotput and triple jump put her on the radar for qualifying for the state tournament later this season.

Not done, Fye also flashed her speed on

the track. Fye finished fifth in the 200, finishing in a time of 28.35 seconds. She went on to team with Olianada Vazquez, Madalyn Stubblefield and Lydia Fleming to finish fifth in the 4x200 relay, turning in a time of 2:04.39.



FYE

Christian Locke was also a top performer for the Pioneers. Days after pledging to Berea College to run track, Locke dominated competition in both the 800 and 1,600.

The senior topped a field of 31 runners in the 800 with a time of 2:03.29, over a second better than Tullahoma's Elijah Walker.

Locke was equally dominant in the 33-person 1,600. Warren County's top distance

runner turned in a time of 4:42.22 in the mile race, beating Hamz Abohashema from John Overton High School and the Riverdale duo of John Neal and Grayson McPherson.

Jayren Perkins had the team's only other top five, finishing fifth in the 200.

## Autism 5K winners



Lacy Garrison photo

The Autism 5K Awareness race brought hundreds of competitors downtown Saturday. Pictured are the overall female and male race winners Keely Campbell and Matthew Bratcher. Full results can be found on 2B.



### Have A "Hole" Lot of Fun!

The Civic Center presents a

## CHASE THE ACE Tournament

### May 12 • 9:30am - Noon

Register now at the McMinnville Civic Center • \$15 per player  
Registration ends May 2

More information and registration forms available on-line @ [mcmcinnvilletn.gov](http://mcmcinnvilletn.gov)



Parks and Recreation  
**McMinnville**  
WARREN COUNTY, TENNESSEE  
500 Garfield St. • McMinnville, TN  
931-473-1212