

THE ART OF RACING



Harvick makes a move

Just when you thought that Kyle Busch was taking over the dominance of the Monster Energy NASCAR Cup Series, the monster mile in Dover pops up and Kevin Harvick says, “not so fast, I’m still here.” Kyle Larson qualified for the pole but failed pre-race inspection three times and was sent to the rear of the field for the start. This put Harvick in front and he basically dominated from there.

Harvick won both stages and was comfortably ahead of teammate Clint Bowyer at the finish. Kurt Busch finished fifth, putting three of the Stewart-Haas racers in the top five. Aric Almirola, the fourth Stewart-Haas teammate finished 11th, showing everyone that Stewart-Haas Racing is still the force to be dealt with this year.

Harvick, Bowyer and Keselowski shared the lead during the first stage but fuel played a big part of the result of Stage 1 with Harvick getting the best of everyone. Harvick and Keselowski shared the lead during Stage 2 with Harvick again claiming the stage win. This was his sixth stage win this year as he took over the playoff point lead with 19. Kyle Busch continues to maintain the lead in stage points, which count in the point standings. Race winners automatically advance to the playoffs with the remaining field being set by points.

Rain forced a stoppage with 80 laps to go and Bowyer in the lead. He tried a rain dance and anything else for the rain to continue, to no avail. The rains stopped, the track dried, and the race re-started. It did not take long for Harvick to resume the lead and sail away and claim his second Dover trophy. His first trophy was damaged by his son Keelan and he hopes this one stays intact.

“The first one that we won, we took it home and put it in his playroom. First day I came home, he had the arm broke in half off the thing,” said Harvick. “When we talked after [this] race, he said, ‘Dad, are you bringing that trophy home?’ I said, ‘I’m bringing it home, but do not break the arm off this one.’”

Kyle Busch still holds the points lead, followed by Logano, Harvick, Bowyer and Keselowski. Eleven of the 26 regular season races have been completed and there is a surprising list of championship-caliber drivers who have yet to win a race this year. Jimmy Johnson heads the list as he had reeled off three early wins in 2017 but has struggled so far this season. Keselowski, Hamlin and Larson all outperformed Johnson at the end of last season, so their lack of wins in 2018 is an even bigger surprise.

Regional qualifiers



Jeffery Simmons photo
Wesley Jennings and the Pioneers clinched a spot in next week's region tournament with a 10-3 victory over White County Tuesday.

Pioneers sweep Warriors, fall in tournament finals

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

The Pioneers are peaking at the perfect time. And that suits new coach Trice Powers just fine.

In his first year as head coach of the WCHS baseball team, Powers has guided the Pioneers into the region tournament. Warren County earned its spot with a 10-3 victory over White County Tuesday, though it will start on the road due to a 1-0 loss to Cookeville in the championship game Wednesday.

"It's been a good year and maybe that loss was just the motivation we needed going into region," said Powers, whose team had won 10 straight district games before

Wednesday's loss. "We played well and we're still playing this deep into the season. That's the goal."

Jack Keele pulled double duty to push the Pioneers into the region, starring on the mound and at the plate to take down White County. Keele finished 2-for-3 at the dish with three RBIs, while also pitching a complete game with seven strikeouts to silence the Warriors.

Warren County busted open the game in the fourth, scoring six runs to break a 2-2 tie. Senior Cole Estes played a big part, with his two-run single starting the rally. Hunter Adams also had a two-out, two-run single, making it 8-2.

Keele did the rest.

Continued on 2B

Lady Pioneers punch ticket, beat Lady Eagles

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

Rhea County hasn't been a rival for the Lady Pioneers the last two years. They've been more of a punching bag.

The Warren County High School softball team clinched its second straight trip to the region tournament, and third in program history, Wednesday with a 10-1 win over Rhea County.

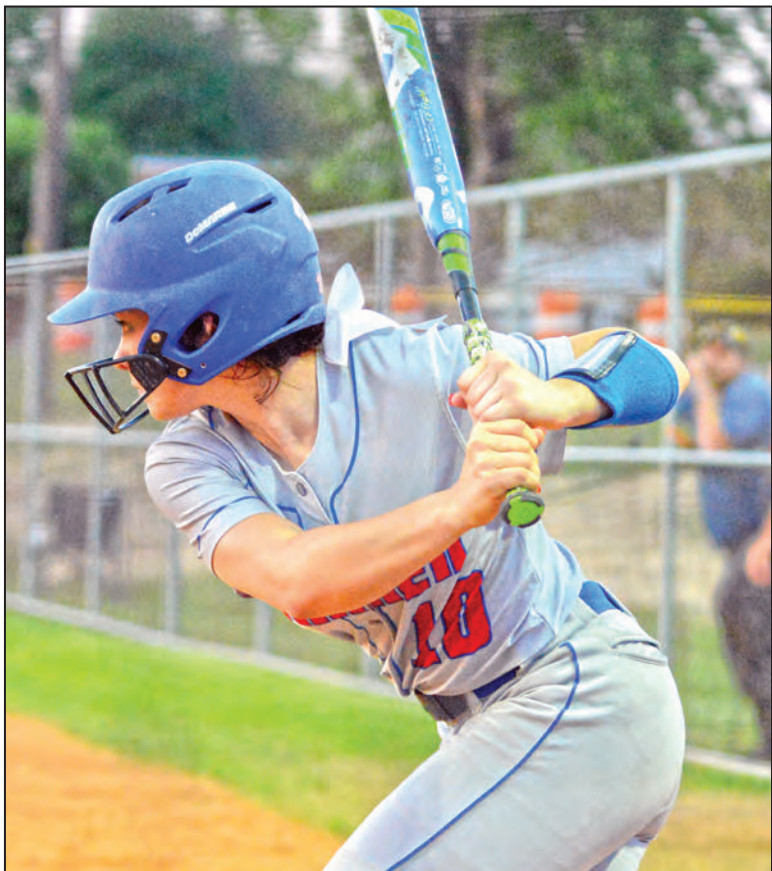
It was an all-too-familiar setup for the Lady Pioneers, who went through Rhea County last year as well to advance. Wednesday's

matchup was set up after Warren County fell 12-8 to Cookeville Tuesday, setting up a win-or-go-home scenario for the Lady Eagles and Lady Pioneers.

Maddie Cantrell made sure Warren County wasn't the one taking an early vacation.

In her strongest outing of the season, Cantrell stifled the Rhea County bats for four-plus innings. Cantrell allowed just four hits and one run – a solo shot in the fourth after the Lady Pioneers had opened an 8-0 lead.

Continued on 2B



Jeffery Simmons photo
MaKenna Mason had two hits in Wednesday's 10-1 victory over Rhea County, a win which clinched the team's second straight trip to the region tournament.

Special Games set for Saturday

The podium stand is set up. The medals are ready. Let the games begin.

The seventh annual McMinnville Special Games is set for Saturday at Nunley Stadium. The adult events will begin at 10 a.m., while the kid events start at 1 p.m.

"We are very excited about all the community support these guys have been getting," said Holly McBride, president of the McMinnville Special Games. "We would love for the public to come out and cheer on our special athletes."

Participants can compete in a wide variety of events, including the softball throw, broad jump, 50-yard dash and wheelchair race. Athletes are highly competitive, working diligently for a chance to take home medals in their sport.

"Everyone wins at the Special Games, but they will compete for first, second and third in each division," said McBride.

Other activities will be available to participants, highlighted by pony rides, mini golf, trampolines, face painting, a duck pond and a bouncy house. All concessions and activities are free to special



Photo provided
Jacob Wanamaker shows off his medal he won at a previous McMinnville Special Games.

needs participants and their families and caregivers. The competitions are open for special needs individuals ages 5 and up.

Volunteers are welcome to help with the McMinnville Special Games. A meeting will be held at WCMS at 8 a.m. Saturday before activities begin. For more information on volunteering, contact McBride at 931-808-8816.

Season ends



Photo courtesy Christopher Hall/Rhea Herald News
Jake Toney holds off Justin Price during Tuesday's district tournament game. The Pioneers ended their season with a 2-0 loss to Rhea County.



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