

# Preds in search of answers following season-ending loss

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — Winning the Stanley Cup seemed the perfect next step for the Nashville Predators after fighting all season for home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs.

Now they know that winning the Presidents' Trophy is no guarantee of winning on home ice when it matters most.

The Predators followed their Stanley Cup Final loss last June with the best season in franchise history, posting 117 points and winning their first Central Division title and the Presidents' Trophy as the NHL's best team in the regular season. Their dream of

finally hoisting the Stanley Cup ended Thursday night with a 5-1 loss to Winnipeg — their fourth home loss of the playoffs. "It's difficult," Nashville coach Peter Laviolette said. "We had talked about what (home ice) meant and as this series wore on, it became evident that nothing really mattered. The home ice didn't matter, the energy in the building, what was going outside of the building with regard to energy. What really what mattered was the way the game was being played on the ice."

The Predators lost their home-ice advantage in Game 1 to Winnipeg and

also lost Game 5 and 7, getting outscored 19-9 in Nashville.

They have plenty of company, becoming the ninth Presidents' Trophy winner in the past decade not to win the Stanley Cup. Only Chicago in 2013 is the exception, while the Presidents' Trophy winner has won the Cup only eight times since the award was established. Washington, last year's trophy winner, also lost in the second round in Game 7.

The future looks bright with the top line of Ryan Johansen, budding superstar Filip Forsberg and Viktor Arvidsson all under contract through 2021-22.

"The positive thing is we're a young team and we for the most part, our team will be together for a while," Johansen said. "Learn from it and come next year, we'll have more experience again and find a way to reach our goal."

# Lighthouse tops Lions



Andrew Palmer tries to find room to work during Friday's contest at Pistole Park. Pride was on the line when the Covenant Lions faced off against the Lighthouse Lions in the MTAC semifinals. After a scoreless first half, Lighthouse pulled away, winning 4-0.

Jeffery Simmons photo

**COACH TOM MOORE'S PIONEER OF THE WEEK**

Written by WCHS assistant coach Camron Bond

## DILLON HALEY

Coaches often look for certain traits in players - discipline, accountability, toughness and many other characteristics. Rising junior OL Dillon Haley exemplifies each of these traits on a daily basis. Dillon is a steady worker whose presence can sometimes go unnoticed by the way he carries himself and approaches the game.



Dillon is never too high or too low. He keeps a level head in tough situations when things aren't always going his way. This is something I value about him, and a characteristic other could learn from him. One thing I have come to learn is that this respectful young man can be counted on - not only by his coaches, but more importantly his teammates.

earned playing time as the season went on. As the focus has turned to the 2018 season, we expect Dillon to be a great contributor in the trenches.

## WCHS softball

Continued from page 1B

The freshman center-fielder finished 2-for-3, including a two-run double in the third which put Warren County in control at 8-1. She added another double in the fifth, pushing the advantage to 10-1.

Maddie Cantrell was tasked with protecting the lead in the fourth and got the job done. The junior was spotless in relief,

keeping the Lady Cavaliers off the scoreboard the final four innings.

Warren County poured it on in the sixth, plating seven to claim a run-rule victory. MaKenna Mason provided the exclamation point, connecting on a triple with the bases loaded to score Ashton Whiles, Savannah Cox and Samantha Jennings.

Mullican also connect-

ed on a two-out, two-run double in the frame, breaking Cookeville's will while the Lady Pioneer crowd roared.

The ending came swift, with Mason's base-clearing triple serving as a knockout punch in an offensive onslaught.

"These games are like heavyweight fights. We just kept punching," said Martin.

Cantrell closed the

game with a strikeout, igniting a celebration over three decades in the making.

"It was exciting," said Cantrell. "I was locked in on MaKenna and just focused on hitting my spots."

The victory moves the Lady Pioneers into the regionals, where they will play host to Walker Valley Monday. The contest is set to begin at 5:30 p.m.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### SECURITY FEDERAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Security Federal tennis tournament will be held June 7-9 at McMinnville Civic Center. Divisions are open for

singles, doubles and mixed doubles. Junior divisions are also open, including U-12 and 10-U. The cost is \$15 per division.

Registration is open until June 1. Contact David Dunlap at 273-3635 for more information.

### WARREN COUNTY VOLLEYBALL

The Lady Pioneer volleyball camp will be held May 14-17 at Charlie Dalton Gym from 3:30-5 p.m. each day. The camp is for girls currently in grades 5-11. The cost is \$30, which includes a camp T-shirt.

### WCMS SOFTBALL TRYOUTS

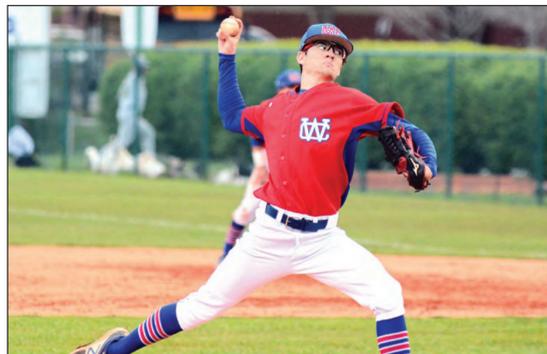
Tryouts will be held for the WCMS softball team

May 21-22 from 5-8 p.m. Tryouts will take place on the WCHS softball field.

### WCMS BASEBALL TRYOUTS

The Warren County Middle School baseball team will hold tryouts Saturday, May 26. The tryout is open to players who will be in 7-8 grade next year. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. and will be followed by a parent and player meeting at 9:30 a.m.

The tryout will be in two sessions, 10 a.m. to noon and 2-4 p.m. All players will participate in both sessions.



Senior Tyler Hollingsworth was named the District 6AAA pitcher of the year following a 7-1 season. Hollingsworth threw five complete games and carried 0.76 ERA in district play.



In his first season at Warren County, coach Trice Powers was named the District 6AAA coach of the year by his peers. Powers, pictured with Cole Estes, guided the Pioneers to second place in the regular season and a region berth.

# Pioneers litter all-district list

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

Dominating district foes seemed to make an impression on Pioneer opponents.

Warren County, which won its last eight district games to finish 9-3 in District 6AAA play, placed seven players on the all-district list released last week. New coach Trice Powers also joined the festivities, getting recognized by his peers with the coach of the year award.

Tyler Hollingsworth, Braden Bottoms, Brandon Hennesse, Brooks Helton, Ethan Smith, Hunter Adams and Jack Keele were all honored by the district coaches.

Hollingsworth headlined the honors for the Pioneers. The senior hurler took home the pitcher of the year award, edging out Belmont commit and Cookeville standout Joshua South.

Hollingsworth was dominant for the Pioneers this year, taking the ball every Monday during district series. He compiled a 5-1 district record, allowing just four earned runs in 37 innings of work. The senior struck out twice as many batters (35) than he allowed hits (17) in district.

For most of his starts, Hollingsworth was working with Bottoms behind the plate. The freshman took the position full time midway through the season and never looked back. Bottoms caught nearly 40 percent of runners attempting to steal in 11 district games, all while

carrying a .290 batting average in league play.

Hennesse was a defensive stalwart in outfield, helping the Pioneers be one of the stingiest teams in the league. Warren County allowed just 22 runs in 12 district games.

The junior outfielder also picked up steam at the plate late, coinciding with his move to the two spot in the lineup.

Helton was a dual threat, sporting one the team's best batting averages while also being called on to pitch in a pinch. The junior finished with a .344 batting average this season and also was on the mound to close one of the team's biggest victories - a 4-3 home win over Cookeville.

Smith was an offensive savant for the Pioneers, leading the team in batting average (.414), runs (34) and stolen bases (20) while finishing third on the team with 15 RBIs from his lead-off spot.

A sure-handed shortstop, Adams helped captain the Pioneer defense. He also was best at the plate in district games, upping his .305 season average to .381 in league play.

The Pioneers had one of the best rotations in the district and Keele was a big reason why. The day two starter in district games, Keele led the Pioneers in strikeouts (51) while compiling a 5-1 record (4-1 in district) and 2.71 ERA.

The Pioneers will look to extend their season Monday when they travel to face Bradley Central.



BRADEN BOTTOMS



BRANDON HENNESSE



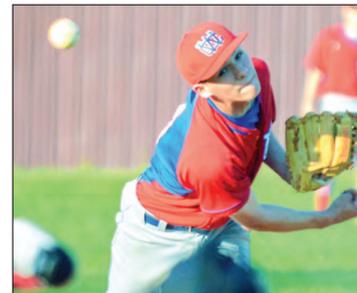
BROOKS HELTON



ETHAN SMITH



HUNTER ADAMS



JACK KEELE

# Pioneers look to put Bears in hibernation

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

Earning a region bid has become old news for the Pioneers. The WCHS baseball team is focused on taking the next step as a program.

For the fifth time in seven years, the Pioneers are set to take part in the region tournament. Warren County will travel to Bradley Central Monday, hoping to win its 6 p.m. matchup with the District 5AAA champion Bears.

It won't be an easy task, though first-year coach Trice Powers isn't planning to hold anything back while trying to take down the Bears, winners of nine of their last 11.

"Everybody is available. It's a kitchen sink game - whatever it takes to get the job done," said Powers.

Warren County (19-12) is also entering the region playing its best ball. A 1-0 loss to Cookeville in the district championship was a blip on the radar for the Pioneers, who had won their previous 10 district

games and topped McCallie - considered one of the top teams in the state - in the final week of the regular season.

Bradley Central (22-11) also has its share of impressive wins, including an 8-1 victory over Walker Valley in the 5AAA tournament finals. The Bears will likely turn to No. 1 starter Blaze Benton, a senior lefty who has compiled a 7-2 record with a 1.49 ERA this season. Andy Bunch (7-1, 1.07 ERA) and Riley Klack, who won the District 5AAA championship game on the mound, could

also be available.

Bradley Central boasts a strong offense, led by Dylan Standifer (Lee University commit), Pete Williams (Cleveland State) and District 5AAA player of the year Preston Taylor.

"They're one of the hottest teams in Chattanooga," said Powers. "It's going to be a good test."

The Pioneers will likely counter with District 6AAA pitcher of the year Tyler Hollingsworth (7-1, 1.42 ERA). Warren County will also count on offensive production

from all-district honorees Ethan Smith (.414 batting average, team-high 34 runs), Brooks Helton (.344, 28 RBIs) and Hunter Adams (.305, 25 runs, 12 RBIs).

The Pioneers and Bears have faced three common opponents this season: Ooltewah, Rhea County and Mt. Juliet. Warren County was 3-2 against those opponents, while Bradley Central finished 2-2.

The two teams met last year, with Bradley Central winning 12-6 in the Playing for a Cure tournament in Sevierville.

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