

## Tournament champs



Photo provided

The WCMS softball team won the CTC championship Saturday. Members of the team are, front row, from left, Dallis Melton, Halle Lowe, Kora Forbes, Aleya Esparza, Madison Hollis, Shelby Roberts, Alyssa Mosley and Jessie Young. Back row, Halo Armstrong, coach Joe Damon, Mea Starkey, Danika Reno, assistant coach Rodney Whiles, Brooklyn Cope, Jazlyn Ward, Isabella Pennington, Ebonie Ross, Juju Pyburn, assistant coach William Forbes, Bella Bain, Bella Cantrell, Marli McBride and assistant coach Beau Lowe.

## WCMS Lady Pioneers claim CTC title

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

The quest for the CTC softball title for the Lady Pioneers turned into an endurance test in Manchester Saturday. The Warren County Middle School softball team needed every scrap of energy over the course of six games in two days – five coming on Saturday – to hoist the title.

By the time the Lady Pioneers

beat top seed Franklin North in back-to-back games late Saturday, it was their trophy to hoist, even if many may have been too tired to lift it.

"These were true team wins," said WCMS coach Joe Damon, who guided the team to a championship in his first season at the helm. "The girls fought hard to come out of the loser's bracket and take the title."

"These girls have worked hard every day since January.

They didn't take days off and it's great to see it pay off for them."

The Lady Pioneers won the title games 4-0 and 12-2, capping a comeback against the Lady Gators and ending their season with a 19-3 mark.

Overcoming adversity was something the Lady Pioneers had to face all weekend. Warren County had players fight through injuries and fatigue, along with bouncing back from

a demoralizing no-hitter, to win the tournament for the fourth time in the last seven years.

"I've said it all year, our defense is special. They proved it over the weekend," said Damon. "There's not a weak spot on the field with this group. There's no one to hide and every girl gives 100 percent. When we needed big plays in big moments, we had players step up."

Warren County was forced to

battle out of the loser's bracket after falling to Franklin North early in the day 2-1. Ashtyn Danley tossed a no-hitter in the matchup, with the Lady Pioneers scoring on a first-inning error for their lone run.

The loss put the Lady Pioneers' backs against the wall, with a second loss signaling the end of the season. Warren County wouldn't lose again.

Continued on **3B**



## Pioneers at work

The WCHS football team held its first spring practice Monday. Above, coach Tom Moore hands off to running back C.J. Taylor during offensive drills.

At right, Raven Lewandowski looks in a pass. Lewandowski is team's top returning receiver from last year's 3-7 team.

Warren County will hold nine workouts before concluding the spring with a scrimmage Friday, May 18 against Grundy County.



Photo courtesy of Painted Barn Media

James Jackson was a star on senior night. Jackson scored three goals in a 4-1 victory against Soddy Daisy.

## Senior night success

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

It was a senior night James Jackson won't soon forget.

The top-flight scorer for the Warren County High School soccer team recorded a hat trick, helping the Pioneers to a 4-1 victory over Soddy Daisy.

Etson Mendez, Freddy Franco, Braylon Kirby and Rene Alvarez joined James during senior ceremonies and all were able to celebrate their senior night with a victory. Alvarez got the start in net, while Mendez, Franco and Kirby made big impacts in limiting the Trojan offense during a pivotal District 6AAA matchup.

"Our seniors are all good, hard

workers," said coach Matt Jackson, who watched his oldest son score three goals on senior night. "Rene subbed in and played well in the net. Freddy and Etson have been key to our defense all season, and Braylon has really worked hard for us in the midfield."

Freshman John Jackson scored the team's fourth goal, helping the Pioneers secure a spot in the top three in the district standings.

James made sure the Pioneers put away the Trojans. Warren County struck first, with James and Kirby running a give-and-go that resulted in James beating the keeper with his left foot.

Continued on **2B**



**MOVIES  
IN THE  
PARK**

**MARY POPPINS  
~ SING A-LONG ~  
May 12th at Dusk  
Pepper Branch Park**

\* 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**

