



Jacob Dodd photo  
**Brianna Winkler is one of 14 players selected for this fall's WCMS volleyball team. Winkler was a big part of last year's 14-2 JV team.**

## The picks are in

### WCMS restocks roster

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

A championship pedigree has been established. Coach Kelly Clayborne's challenge this week was to locate the next group of championship talent.

Gone is the entire starting lineup and a key sub which powered the Lady Pioneers to back-to-back Central Tennessee Conference regular season championships. In their place, coach Clayborne

selected a roster of 14 players who will attempt to fill the void and move the program forward.

"I lost seven key players, but I'm returning nine players from last year," said Clayborne. "Those returning players don't have a lot of varsity experience, but had a strong season with the JV team."

"We are going to be young, but they showed me last year they have heart and determination. It is going to be an interesting year."

Members of the 2018

WCMS volleyball team will be Mia Hobbs, Jessie Young, Megan Miller, Brianna Winkler, Caitlyn Adams, Kennedy Pegg, Sophie Woodlee, Krista Chisam, Emily Davis, Allyson Blalock, Aleah Davis, Braelin Slaughter, Mia Henry and Brianna Taylor.

Hobbs, Young, Winkler, Miller, Pegg, Chisam, Woodlee, Emily Davis and Adams were all part of last year's JV team, which went 14-2 last season.

The Lady Pioneers will train over the summer before starting practice in August. The season will begin in late August.

## American Legion baseball is back

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**  
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America's pastime will soon be reunited with the local American Legion.

On Tuesday, May 29, the American Legion Post 173 baseball team will take the field at Patrick Ramsey Field, marking the return of the baseball program which was once a big part of the community.

"It's a good thing for everybody," said WCHS baseball coach Trice Powers, who has worked with the American Legion to reestablish the program locally. "We care about our vets and our vets care about baseball. They've taken care of us and we want to take care of them."

"I think it's going to be an awesome experience. It should generate more interest in baseball in the community - not only for high-school level players, but younger players as well."

The 17-year-old local American Legion team will begin play at 5 p.m. Tuesday, where they'll take on Post 88



from Nashville. The 15-U Post 173 team will travel to Manchester Tuesday to face Post 78.

A ceremony will be held before the game, while WCHS principal and former Pioneer and American Legion player Jimmy Walker is scheduled to throw out the first pitch. Many prior American Legion baseball players are also expected to attend.

Bringing back such an established league was important to many members of the community.

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## Meeting a legend



Photo courtesy of Kyle Zedaker/Tennessee Athletics  
**Former Pioneer K'rohn Calbert had a chance to share a few words with former Tennessee coach and current UT athletic director Phillip Fulmer before the orange and white game in late April. Calbert redshirted last season after having knee surgery. He is expected to compete for a spot on the offensive line this fall.**



Jeffery Simmons photo  
**Senior Isaiah Grayson set records on the gridiron and helped lead the WCHS basketball team to its first region win in decades.**

## Ballin' bros

### SIMMONS SAYS

JEFFERY  
SIMMONS

When I first started doing the Best of the Best athlete picks in 2011, Lee Carden was freshman of the year. He won the top athlete honors in 2012 and 2013, then was a runner-up as a senior. It was obvious from the moment Carden arrived on the scene he was going to be a big-time contributor in every sport he played.

I mention Carden because I feel like there's another athlete graduating this week who would've enjoyed a similar domination of my ballot had I continued the tradition from 2015-17. Without further ado, let's jump into the Best of the Best high school male athletes, selected by yours truly.

### ATHLETE OF THE YEAR ISAIAH GRAYSON (FOOTBALL/BASKETBALL)

One of the most misguided selections I've seen by coaches this year was when Grayson wasn't selected as the District 6AAA MVP in basketball. I know the award usually goes to a player on the top team, but I think Grayson's overall dominance in district play trumped any individual performers from Cookeville (which looked like a great call when the Pioneers smashed the Cavaliers in the district tournament). He was a constant standout when the Pioneers needed him the most.

I also think basketball is Grayson's second-best sport.

My memory doesn't date back to the glory days of Pioneer football (because I wasn't born until 1986), so I hate to proclaim Grayson as the best QB in the program's history. I will say he's in the discussion.

There are few guys who

could've done what Grayson did last fall in Fayetteville, leading the Pioneers to a 28-21 victory by running for 200-plus yards and three touchdowns, throwing for a score and sealing the victory with a last-minute interception. It was a special performance.

Getting a front-row view of Grayson's senior year has been one of the highlights of my comeback to the sports desk.

**HONORABLE MENTION**  
Ethan Smith (baseball), Tyler Hollingsworth (baseball), Jack Keele (baseball)

**SENIOR OF THE YEAR**  
Christian Locke (track)

I've seen Locke outside of sports many more times than I've gotten to see him perform. He happens to work where I shop, so usually when I'm catching up on his accomplishments, it's as I'm deciding whether to get one or two packs of Reese's.

Continued on 3B

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