

# Jones named all-MTAC

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

When the Middle Tennessee Athletic Conference released its all-conference picks for baseball, Boyd fans knew they'd see a familiar name. Junior Lane Jones garnered all-conference recognition for the Broncos after leading his squad at the plate and on the mound.

"He's the center of our team," said Boyd coach Daniel Majors, who saw his team post double-digit victories this spring. "He's a good hitter and a good pitcher. And when he's not pitching, he plays first base. He's dominant there too."

Jones led the Broncos in wins on the mound, often

taking care of batters on his own. The hurler struck out 31 throughout the year, blending a solid fastball with excellent command of off-speed pitches.

The success didn't seem to shock Majors, who has watched up close as Jones has become dominant on the diamond. Dedication and hard work in practice translated to success each time Jones stepped between the lines for the Broncos.

"He loves baseball and puts forth a tremendous amount of effort every day and at every practice," said Majors. "He's a great kid - a 'yes sir, no sir' kind of kid."

His arm wasn't the only place Jones did damage. He was also a threat in the heart of the Boyd order, finishing with a team-high

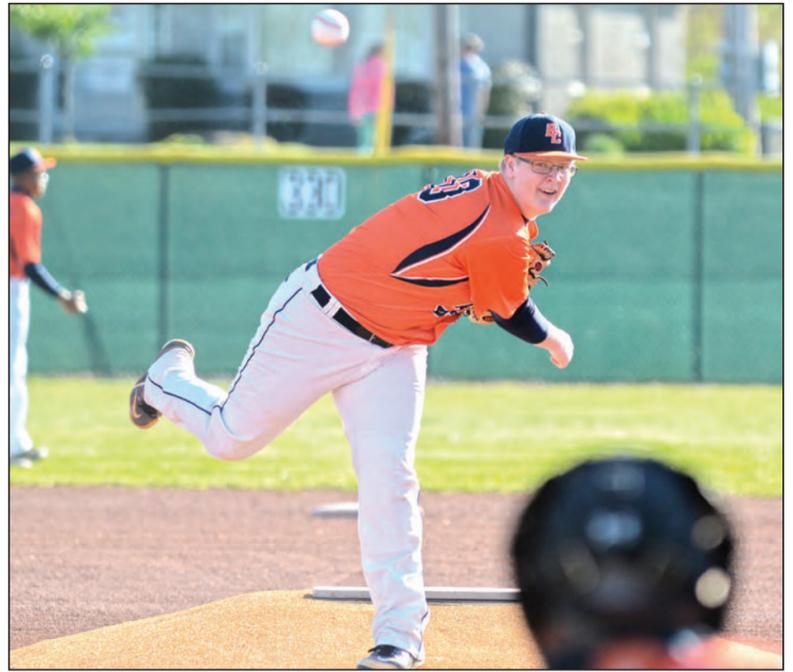
.467 average while driving in 17 runs. His ability to come through over and over at the dish amazed his coach.

"He was good for two or three hits every game. It's crazy how consistent he is," said Majors.

Being the face of the program, along with the headline of every opponent's scouting report, didn't seem to go to Jones' head. If anything, the Boyd star made sure his teammates were staying on the same page and getting the most out of their abilities.

"I think the thing that stands out is how he's a leader to the younger guys," said Majors.

He'll get to reprise his role. Jones will be a senior next spring, much to the chagrin of opposing MTAC coaches.



Jeffery Simmons photo  
**A dominant pitcher and hitter, junior Lane Jones earned all-conference honors in the Middle Tennessee Athletic Conference.**

# Gudat guiding unbeaten squad

BY JEFFERY SIMMONS  
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Give Ceilee Gudat a catcher and a run and she'll deliver a win.

With Gudat hurling strikes, Aaron's Heat and Air continued its dominant run through the girls 10-12 league Thursday night, downing Tennessee Warehouse 14-0 for its seventh straight victory.

Gudat has been the driving force for Aaron's, which has already clinched the regular-season title in the league with a 7-0 record. The dominant pitcher has been an efficient ace, leading to the team allowing just two runs all season while outscoring opponents 93-2.

She struck out seven during Thursday's outing, including striking out the side in the first two innings. The lone blemishes were a walk drawn by Jazlynn

Ward and a two-out double by Zoie Connor, which was promptly followed by a strikeout.

Aaron's jumped out to a big lead in the bottom of the first, getting a two-run double from Kaylee Sklena while taking a 5-0 lead. Aaron's also plated two on walks while Gudat chipped in a run-scoring single.

The lead swelled to nine in the second, highlighted by Emma Muncey's three-run double which plated Emma Johnson, Sklena and Abby Sullivan.

Layla Walker shut the door in the third, knocking in two with a single as Aaron's went up 14. The game was called moments later.

Tennessee Warehouse fell to 2-6 after the loss, just a half-game behind second place Smile Doctors at 2-5.

Aaron's will go for its eighth straight victory Monday at 5:30 p.m. at Pete Holt Field.



**Ceilee Gudat has been dominant for Aaron's Heat and Air this season. Gudat's pitching helped her team to a 7-0 record.**

# Titans learning new defensive scheme

**NASHVILLE (AP)** — All-Pro safety Kevin Byard believes it doesn't get much better for him and his Titans teammates: First learning from defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau and now Dean Pees.

"Just having two legends as coaches on the defense, man, I was blessed," Byard said.

Now, what the Titans' defense will look like under Pees, that remains somewhat a mystery. Neither Pees nor the Titans are sharing many, if any, details right now. Oh, there's been talk of showing different looks on the defensive line and being consistent in coverages.

But that's about as much as Pees is willing to share.

"I'd like to be more little more precise, but I really don't want to talk about scheme particularly and what we're doing," Pees

said Wednesday when asked about coverage consistency.

The Titans made a change from Mike Mularkey to first-timer Mike Vrabel as head coach in January mostly to get more production from an offense led by young quarterback Marcus Mariota. Even though the Titans were the AFC's best against the run and allowed a league-fewest five touchdowns rushing and tied for fifth in sacks, they still have plenty of room for improvement on defense.

Maybe because the Titans were so good against the run, they faced more passes than any other defense in the NFL. They also gave up the most first downs through the air last season. The Titans ranked 25th defending the pass, giving up 239.3 yards per game, and 17th in points allowed.

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