



**Katie Toney works to keep the ball in front of her during the TN State Cup over Memorial Day Weekend. The Lady Cosmos, a local club soccer team, advanced to the semifinals of the prestigious state tournament.**

Jacob Dodd photos

# Lady Cosmos star at state

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

"Age is just a number" is an old adage the Lady Cosmos prove each time they take the pitch. The local club soccer team takes on all-comers, despite many times competing against players with 2-3 years of added experience. The restraints didn't seem to bother the Lady Cosmos over Memorial Day weekend, when the team advanced to the semifinals in the TN State Cup tournament. "We constantly have to combine age groups to make teams and that puts us at a disadvantage to most other competitive club teams who have groups with all one age group," said Lady Cosmos coach Myra Jackson. "We had a good run. They have an insatiable desire to win and that is how we have gotten so far." It seemed to pay off this season. In their first year competing in the TN State League, the Lady Cosmos finished third in a high-powered league featuring teams from all across the state. Jackson entered the group, which has been playing together since 2014, forward in the 2003 age bracket, despite only having three players who were relegated to the bracket. Jackson's 17-player roster consist-

ed of Jessi Alvarez, Sami Anderson, Bailey Bundy, Jessica Chastain, Claire Colvard, Ella Colvard, Journey Cowan, Molly Dodd, Savanna Duggin, Bekah Jackson, Alondra Parada, Shelby Roberts, Hailey Simpson, Caroline Stiles, Natalie Stepien, Katie Toney and Carmen Verdel. The majority of the team was forced to play at a higher level, something Jackson believes made her team better as the season went along. "Most of our girls always have to play an age group, or two, up. It's taught the girls the discipline of hard work - we have to put in harder work than the older teams we play," said Jackson. "My girls may not be as big or as old as our opponents, but we always are the team that works the hardest and never gives up." In the tournament, the Lady Cosmos matched up against NUSA from Nashville. After falling behind 2-0 by halftime, the Lady Cosmos rallied to tie the game late in the second half. Just as the momentum was swinging toward the Lady Cosmos, the game was paused as a weather delay forced both teams off the field. When play resumed, a refreshed NUSA scored in the final five minutes to prevail. "I think the weather delay



**Bekah Johnson lifts up Jessica Chastain while celebrating in the state cup.**

worked in their favor. They were tired and we were wearing them down with our persistent attack," said Jackson. "Our team is very fit. We had worked on fitness heavily in the last month because I knew that could be the difference between winning and losing." The loss may have been a downer at the end, but the Lady Cosmos proved their mettle around the state.

## WCMS baseball selects roster

BY **JEFFERY SIMMONS**  
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After going through a rebuilding season, Warren County Middle School baseball coach Chad Young went back to the drawing board last weekend to help restore the Pioneers to their status among the Central Tennessee Conference elite. Young, who led the Pioneers to a CTC championship in 2016, selected 16 players - eight upcoming eighth-graders and eight seventh-graders. His hope is the team will once again compete for championships in the near

future. "We are excited about working with our new players as well as their returning teammates," said Young. "Our conference is stacked with very competitive teams and a lot of talent. We plan on working hard and putting in many hours of practice while we work our way to the top." Logan Earls, a starter on the infield, and pitcher Kendal Patrick headline the returning eighth-graders. Jax King, Kayden Coates, Wesley Sherrell, JJ Jacobs, Kenyon Reno and Jathan Bogle also move up after playing the majority of last season on the JV squad.

New additions to the roster include Brett Cantrell, Balor Melton, Alex van Vuuren, Aiden Miller, Braxton Hopkins, Brayon Holguin, Jayron Morris and Easton Denning. Young believes the fresh faces can come in and immediately compete for spots in the lineup. "Our plans are to have a varsity-only team. Every player will be expected to work hard to know their position on the field," said Young. "The other coaches and I are looking forward to another year of WCMS baseball." The Pioneers will start their season in February.



Jeffery Simmons photo

**JJ Jacobs is one of eight players returning for the WCMS baseball team next season.**

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